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Saipan Tribune

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MPLT may require Tinian to go into receivership. PAGE 2

DPH: H1N1 still circulating, 56K new vaccines coming. PAGE 5

Govt's employer contribution to increase to 20 percent

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The government will pay a higher employer contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund, from the existing 16 percent to 20 percent, beginning pay period ending Nov. 7.

Tony Muña, the leader of the Fitial administration's negotiating team, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the proposal was submitted to the court during a Nov. 2 hearing between the Fund and the administration.

Muña said the court will make a formal decision on the issue after the election.

The Superior Court had ruled in June this year that the central government owes the Fund over $231 million in employer

See GOVT'S on Page 4

Muña

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you happy with the interim final rule issued by DHS governing federalization of CNMI immigration?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of November 5, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Nightmare
The neighborhood where Anthony Sowell carved out an existence is the type of place where women can disappear in plain sight.

NATION...Page 27

Rising Star
Sam Worthington is in search of human life amid all that extraterrestrial spectacle in "Avatar."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 35

DPS to deploy 40 more cops for election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will deploy 40 more police officers to maintain peace and order during tomorrow's general election.

Of the 40, three will be assigned to Tinian and three others will go to Rota to help keep the peace during the polls, said DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong yesterday.

See DPS on Page 4

'Go out and vote'

Free rides to the polls offered

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Regardless of political affiliations and beliefs, community leaders have one common message to some 14,000 registered voters, as well as nearly 2,000 absentee voters, for Saturday's general elections: Go out and vote.

At the same time, free transportation to the polls is being offered by the Saipan City Taxi Association led by Rabby Syed and his wife.

See GO OUT on Page 4

UMBRELLA PERMIT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Acting Deputy Labor Secretary Barry Hirshbein, right, checks a nonresident worker's valid entry permit to be able to obtain a copy of her two-year transition conditional permit or "umbrella permit" at the ground floor of the building that houses the Department of Labor in San Antonio yesterday. Labor will continue to distribute the umbrella permits tomorrow, or three weeks before the federal government takes over CNMI immigration.

IN FOUR YEARS

DPH medical referral costs total $16.3M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health spent $16.3 million in referring medical cases to various medical facilities outside the Commonwealth in the last four fiscal years, ending in FY 2009.

Department records show that Fiscal Year 2009 recorded the highest expenditure of $7.4 million for the 907 patients it referred to other hospitals. This figure translates to an over 50 percent increase

See MEDICAL on Page 4

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Local

MPLT may require Tinian to go into receivership, raise taxes to pay loan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Marianas Public Lands Trust will have the authority not only to require the Tinian Municipality to go into receivership, but also to require it to suspend all public purpose programs and raise taxes, fees and revenue if it defaults on its $1 million loan payment to MPLT.

The five-member MPLT board of trustees adopted a resolution informing the Tinian Municipality of the terms and conditions MPLT would require in making an investment of MPLT funds.

The conditions include an 11 percent annual interest on the loan for five years or 60 months and maintaining a reserve account of $2.5 million each year.

Moreover, the MPLT board agreed in principle to lend the Tinian Municipality $1 million—and not "up to $1 million"—in consolidated loan/investment secured by Tinian's casino gaming and local pachinko/poker tax revenue.

"In the event of default, MPLT shall have the authority to require the Tinian Municipality to (a) go into receivership and to appoint a receiver for such a purpose (b) suspend all public purpose programs and (c) raise taxes, fees, and revenue in order to cure any default," the MPLT resolution said.

MPLT Resolution 09-07, a copy of which was obtained from the MPLT office in San Jose, also requires the counsel for the Tinian Municipality and the Tinian Legislative Delegation to deliver to MPLT their written legal opinion and analysis confirming the municipality's authority to engage in the loan from and investment by MPLT.

Sen. Joseph Mendiola (Cov-Tinian), chairman of the delegation, and delegation member Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian) said they sought a legal opinion from Atty. Lucy Blanco-Maratita. Delegation members have yet to get a copy of the legal opinion.

The MPLT resolution, adopted by the board during its Oct. 30 special meeting, was signed by chairman Phillip Mendiola-Long, and trustees Alvaro A. Santos, Vianney Hocog, Pedro R. Guerrero, and Gregoria Fitial-Omar.

Tinian plans to use the $1 million to pay municipal employees' retroactive salaries amounting to $520,913.84; another $201,729.96 to pay Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for expenses related to the 60th anniversary commemoration for the Battle of Tinian in 2004; and $277,356.20 for future scholarships.

'Considerable risk'

In its five-page resolution, MPLT said the trustees did find a considerable risk to Tinian's loan proposal because of the rapidly declining economic conditions worldwide, in addition to poor economic conditions in the CNMI that challenge Tinian's ability to service debts prior to the proposed loan.

MPLT, however, said that the risk was countered and tempered by the municipality's pledge of all casino gaming revenues and local poker/pachinko tax revenues according to Tinian Local Law 16-2.

MPLT said it will incorporate as contractual terms the full provisions of Tinian Local Law 16-2, including Tinian Municipality's full faith and credit to repay the MPLT investment.

Under the terms and conditions, the Tinian Municipality must pay

See MPLT on Page 4

PROVEN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- **Maintained** adequate funding for PSS, NMC, DPH, and DPS among other essential services, despite a severe contraction in government resources
- **Provided** more than the constitutional minimums for public education
- **Secured** $44 million in ARRA stabilization funds for PSS and NMC
- **Established** a new defined contribution plan to limit government pension costs, limit future liabilities, and empower government employees with transportable, individually-owned private accounts
- **Established** the Define Benefit Reform Act of 2007 to limit fund losses and better protect the NMI retirement Fund

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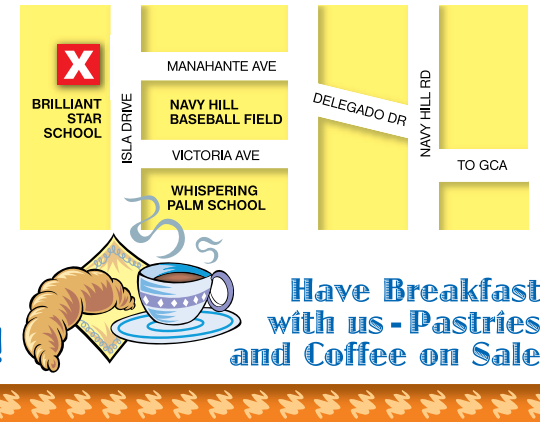

Have Breakfast with us - Pastries and Coffee on Sale

Some ex-garment workers are refused 'umbrella permits'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Lawyer Robert Myers has questioned the Department of Labor's refusal to issue transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits" to his clients who used to work at a defunct garment factory.

Myers said Labor told him that they won't give "umbrella permits" to his clients who used to work at Rifu Apparel because they have no status.

Myers said this is false because his clients got unpaid wages awards, which an insurance company had appealed to the Labor Secretary. Unfortunately, he said, the insurance company lost the appeal. Worse, the company failed to file a timely appeal to the Superior Court.

Myers has 40 clients who are former employees of Rifu Apparel. Eleven were not allowed to get "umbrella permits."

Myers said he filed an order in aid of judgment with Labor to enforce and collect the unpaid wage awards because they were now final and unreviewable, both administratively and judicially. Myers said Labor, however, ignored him and his filing.

Later, he said, the insurance company sued Labor in federal court. "DOL is saying that the fed suit has nothing to do with the Rifu case, which is also false," he said.

Myers said Labor thinks the Rifu case is done and the employees have no status and will be sent home despite having unpaid wage awards.

Labor reportedly told him it will use funds from its trust fund to "voluntarily" repatriate these workers.

Myers questioned why Labor would allow a waiver for those on the overstayers' list (and with no case or claim pending) but not for those whose names shouldn't even be on the list and who have claims or cases pending.

"Clearly, the administration is doing something which is completely different," he said.

Myers on Tuesday wrote to Labor counsel Eli D. Golob, asking for help in facilitating his clients' requests to Labor.

Although the law says the workers are lawfully permitted to remain and seek temporary work in the CNMI while the case is still pending, Myers told Golob he is concerned about Labor's treatment of his clients with respect to one or more of their requests.

These requests include issuance of "umbrella permits," removal of names from the overstayers' list, issuance of memorandums for temporary work, and register the unpaid wages claims.

Myers on Tuesday also relayed the issue to federal ombudswoman Pamela Brown.

Myers told Brown that it seems more and more that Labor is trying to get rid of his clients by closing them off from their due process rights.

Myers said he is hoping that the challenges may be easily cured without having to go to the courts.

He noted that even nonresident workers who are overstayers with no case or claim pending may file a waiver request to get umbrella permits.

"If so, then why is it that those with valid claims or cases pending in either the court or labor system having lawful status cannot likewise get the umbrella permit—albeit via waiver [if necessary]," he told the ombudswoman.

Myers said Labor's counsel stated that Labor requires an order from the court directing the issuance of "umbrella permits."

Myers said he responded that there is no authority giving Labor the power to require a court order to issue umbrella permits.

"While the protocol mentions such court orders, it is just that—merely protocol. It is neither law nor regulation," he asserted.

As to the memorandum, he said, the law is clear that a court order to issue a memorandum is required.

Labor began distributing "umbrella permits" to alien workers on Monday.

Labor officials said the "umbrella permit" will stabilize the workforce, protect employers and employees, and prevent undue damage to the economy.

Labor said an alien worker should hold the "umbrella permit" for the entire two-year period unless Labor revokes it.

The federalization law states that any Commonwealth-issued permit that is in existence on Nov. 27, 2009, will be honored for two years after the law's transition date. The transition date is currently set for Nov. 28, 2009.

Govendo summons Manglona to testify

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has summoned associate judge Ramona V. Manglona to testify in the disciplinary proceedings against him in the CNMI Supreme Court.

In his subpoena, Govendo summoned Manglona to appear at the Supreme Court on Dec. 17, 2009, at 10am to testify in the proceedings.

"This subpoena is issued on behalf of the Respondent Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo," said Govendo in a one-page document e-filed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

A court marshal delivered the subpoena to Manglona at the Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja's secretary area on Tuesday, according to a declaration of service.

It was Manglona who had complained to the Supreme Court about Govendo's alleged professional misconduct.

In a November 2008 decision, Manglona had found Govendo's statements in a family law case against Roger S. Castillo in violation of the "principles of decorum and temperance that the Judicial Canons seek to promote."

The complaint prompted Chief Justice Miguel Demapan to appoint an investigating judge to look into Manglona's complaint.

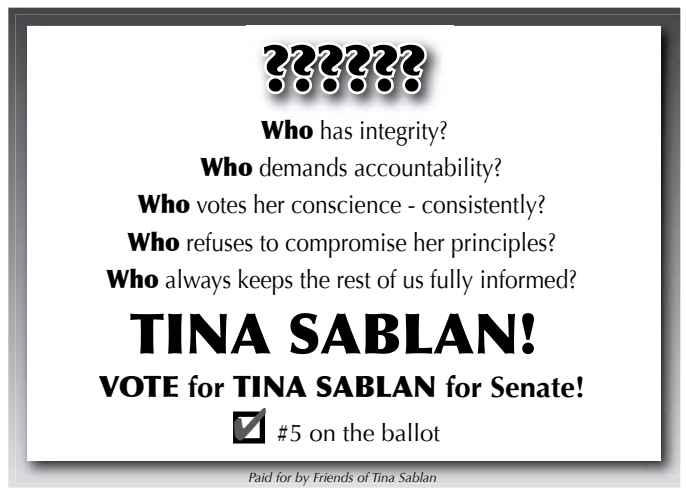
Retired Guam Superior Court judge Richard Benson, as the investigating judge, found sufficient evidence last month to proceed with disciplinary proceedings against Govendo.

Benson noted a pattern in Govendo's use of "racially insensitive language" in his courtroom. He said private admonition would suffice for a single incident, but more stringent discipline is appropriate where a pattern of such conduct exists.

However, in the footnote of his findings, Benson stated that Manglona should have used better judgment and refrained from condemning Govendo in her order.

The investigating judge said Manglona unnecessarily made this matter public by essentially finding Govendo guilty of professional misconduct in her order denying Castillo's motion to vacate his criminal conviction.

In his answer to Benson's findings, Govendo denied the allegation that he has repeatedly used racially insensitive and disparaging language in his courtroom.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Sablan: Bill to help disadvantaged youth finish education introduced

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), along with Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI) and 33 other members, is pushing new legislation to help young people who drop out of school finish their education.

H.R. 3982 was introduced Monday and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, where Sablan is a member.

"We have many young people with great potential," says Sablan. "But sometimes lack of money, or family or health problems, get in the way of their success. They drop out of school or they can't find jobs. This bill—the RAISE UP Act—is designed to help."

H.R. 3982 makes money available to schools and local organizations that offer support services for disadvantaged youth. The idea is to bring these groups together to coordinate their work. The local partnerships would identify high school dropouts and connect them with academic assistance, workforce preparation, mental health and drug treatment, and housing services.

"Working together, these organizations can address all of the reasons these bright young people have not been able to complete school. By getting them this assistance, we can help them secure a diploma or postsecondary educational credential, and a career," added Sablan.

Sablan says that the RAISE UP bill is one more piece of his overall strategy to pump up education and educational opportunity for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Our success as a society—30 to 50 years down the road—depends on how well we educate ourselves today," said Sablan. "And success for individual young people depends on getting them access to all the services that can help them with education and job training. I think this bill will help them change their lives for the better." ***(PR)***

MPLT

From Page 2

"interest payments and principal in equal monthly installments to MPLT."

Another condition is for the Tinian Municipality to guarantee that the annual collection of revenues supporting the debt service on the investment does not fall below $2.5 million each year.

If it does, then the municipality shall agree to implement any raise in local municipal taxes, fees and revenue necessary to meet the minimum debt service guarantee.

Another condition is for Tinian to spend for an independently audited financial statement no later than 120 after the end of each fiscal year, to be submitted to MPLT annually for the duration of the loan.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) earlier said the terms and conditions of the loan request "are extremely risky for both sides."

"It would be totally irresponsible and short sighted for the municipality to take such massive risks," she told Saipan Tribune.

DPS

From Page 1

Tarkong said the 40 officers are in addition to the assigned patrol and traffic officers scheduled for regular duty.

Capt. Lawrence Camacho will serve as the overall DPS commander. DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela and deputy commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro will oversee the operations.

Tarkong urged the public to observe the Board of Election's rules and regulations, which will be enforced that day.

Tarkong also asked the public to cooperate with police officers, election officials, and poll workers.

"Drive safely when approaching the polling stations/booths. Observe all traffic laws when driving and crossing roadways. Drivers be alert of pedestrians," he said.

The DPS spokesman also reminded political parties that all campaign activity should be done safely off the roads and within the designated area at a minimum of 300 feet from a polling station.

"We would like to remind establishments that there will be no sale of alcohol during the restricted time," Tarkong added.

The election tomorrow will be from 7am to 7pm.

MEDICAL

From Page 1

from FY 2008's expenses of $4.4 million for 716 cases.

In FY 2007, CHC recorded 565 medical referral cases and spent $1.5 million; in FY 2006, it spent $2.8 million for 526 cases.

Saipan Tribune learned that, of the overall $16.3 million expenses in four fiscal years, DPH spent $5.5 million on medical claims and $4.7 million on patient's transportation.

DPH spent $2.1 million on interisland travels, while subsistence allowance rang up a total cost of $2.1 million.

Hotel accommodations for patients and their escorts totaled $907,581, while total cost for medical evacuations reached $716,323. Other expenses came in at $34,639.

Majority of referred cases in the last four fiscal years were for radiology with 603, while 528 were for oncology (cancer treatment). Cardiology cases also recorded a high of 496, while urology totaled 202; orthopedic, 147; and other cases, 738.

DPH posted last fiscal year the highest number of radiology patients referred off-island, with 211 patients, while oncology totaled 184.

There were 141 radiology and 178 oncology cases that were referred off-island in FY 2008. In FY 2007, the numbers were at 149 for radiology and 87 for oncology.

Records also showed that of the 2,714 total referred cases, majority were treated in Guam hospitals, with 1,659 total referred cases from 2006 to 2009.

DPH approved 537 referrals cases to Honolulu while 472 was posted for Manila hospitals.

Only six cases were sent to Japanese medical facilities during the four-year period while 40 were referred to other destinations.

Medical referral services is just one of the many important divisions of the Commonwealth Health Center. The Department of Public Health, which runs CHC, is now under a state of emergency as a result of inadequate health care services.

GO OUT

From Page 1

"This is our public service, our civic duty. This is not for a special party or political belief; this is for all. All we ask is for voters to call us as early as [today] so we would know how many need to be transported. My cell number is 285-3306. We will also give special consideration to the *man'amko* or the elderly," Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Two vans will be made available for the free ride to the voting places on Saipan.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said the CNMI's representative democracy gives each citizen the right to vote but voting is also a duty for each citizen in a democracy.

"Because our government can only be as good as the people we elect to run our government and our choice on election day results in the kind of government we have for years after, I encourage all citizens to come out and vote. Vote for the future you want for our islands. Remember that electing good leaders will lead to a bright future for our Commonwealth," he said in statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan, a former executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, also wishes the election commissioners, staff and election workers his best.

"Managing elections is not an easy task. I will keep these officials and everyone in our Commonwealth in my prayers on this Election Day," he added.

'Responsible citizenship'

Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, chancellor of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, said the Catholic Church does not engage in partisan politics but its tradition, however, has been to emphasize responsible citizenship as a virtue.

He said the Church recognizes and respects the separation of church and state.

"In this context, a responsible citizen should exercise his/her right to vote. Per the U.S. Bishops' Conference's document titled *Faithful Citizenship*, we are tasked to encourage all Catholics 'to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity to participate [more fully] in building the culture of life,'" he said.

Rep. Ray A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan), who is running for re-election, said voting is not only a "fundamental right" but a "civic duty," and encourages voters to cast their votes in tomorrow's elections.

"Go out there and vote. I'm hoping voters will have an educated and informed decision as to who they are voting for," he said.

'Critical'

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), for her part, said this year's general election is a critical one.

"We have found ourselves at a crossroads in the CNMI, and the decisions that we make at the ballot will reflect the direction we wish to go as a community, and especially in terms of governance, the rule of law, immigration and labor reform, energy security, environmental protection, our relationship with the federal government, and economic recovery," she said.

Sablan, a freshman member of the 16th House of Representatives, is running for senator.

"As citizens, voters, taxpayers, and residents, we have far more power than we may think, far more power than we have exercised thus far, to make the CNMI a better place to live and visit. If we desire a new direction for our community, our decision to change course can and must begin at the ballot," she added.

Continuity versus change

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said it is imperative that CNMI voters participate in the Nov. 7 elections given the state of the local and global economy, as well as the impact of federalization.

"The voters have a clear choice in the candidates and only the team of Fitial/Inos can stand tall and proudly state that we have a clear plan for the betterment of the CNMI over the next four years," he said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos of the Covenant Party are seeking re-election.

Republican standard-bearer Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider said the Nov. 7 election is "an opportunity for voters to make a difference."

"You can't bring change if you don't vote. Let's make this election the most important election. Things are really bad and the hardships have gotten worse so to make a difference in the lives of others and your own life, we need to come out and vote. Do not let Saturday pass without voting," Hofschneider said in a phone interview.

While Fitial touts "continuity of proven and tested leadership," Hofschneider calls for "change in leadership."

House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, an independent candidate for lieutenant governor and whose running mate is businessman Juan "Pan" Guerrero as governor, encourages voters to show up at the polls and exercise their constitutional right to vote.

"We encourage everyone to give serious consideration in selecting their leaders. The people you elect will determine the way you live your life in the next four years," said Camacho, as he urged voters to vote for him and Guerrero.

Fitial said the progress that has been made during the last four years of his administration should not be halted by electing unproven leaders.

"Our Commonwealth and its people cannot risk stopping the progress that we have made. We have made significant progress in providing reliable energy, improving the financial shape of government operations, addressing the health care and educational needs of our citizens, and bringing stability to the Retirement Fund," he said.

If re-elected, he said his administration will "continue efforts to bring new industries to the CNMI which will help stabilize and grow the economy, improve the health care and education systems, ensure the fiscal stability of the Retirement Fund through the Pension Obligation Bond, and remove the roadblocks enacted by the legislature and privatize the CUC."

There are 110 candidates vying for more than 40 seats in government on Nov. 7.

This is the first time the CNMI will have a runoff election if none of the four gubernatorial candidates gets 50 percent plus one of the votes cast.

GOVT'S

From Page 1

contributions. To satisfy the judgment and address the obligation, both parties were allowed to negotiate on a payment scheme.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon confirmed yesterday the new 20 percent employer contribution proposal, which he said is still up to the court to approve.

Besides the new rate, Aguon said the administration also offered to continue remitting the taxes that are intended for the Fund—the alcohol and hotel occupancy taxes. Both funding sources are supposed to be remitted to the Fund but the government has not been doing that in past years.

"They [administration] offered the 20 percent employer's contribution rate and they offered to continue paying the taxes…so we'll take it," Aguon told *Saipan Tribune*.

Of course, Aguon said, the Fund would rather have the 37 percent contribution rate for the government, as recommended by an actuarial study.

Aguon hinted, though, that the Fund, may accept the administration's offer due to the current state of government resources. The existing 16 percent being paid by the government was pursuant to the court judgment.

Muña described the increased contribution rate as a way to help keep the Fund solvent until 2045.

"The Fund has communicated the need for additional funding and we believe that is a situation where we need to go to court. What we have presented to the court was to address the long-term solvency of the Fund," Muña said.

He identified four important components that are vital to the long-term resolution of the Fund's problems:

- reforms in the management of the accrued actuarial liability;
- revisiting the Fund's investment policy;
- reduction in the investment and administrative expenses relating to the handling of the program; and
- a new actuarial analysis from which payments will be based on.

"What we see here is the changing of process to address the liabilities as a result of a closed plan [from DBP to DCP]," he said, adding that, from the administration's standpoint, the liability that needs to be addressed now is the "difference" between actuarial accrued liability and the assets.

But Aguon said yesterday that the Fund conducts an actuarial analysis every year, the results of which it provides to the government and the Legislature.

He wonders why this document is being asked every year.

DPH: H1N1 still circulating, 56K new vaccines coming

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Although it has yet to receive a new batch of test results for H1N1 virus, the Department of Public Health is convinced that what it is seeing in patients are the symptoms of the virus that is still circulating on the islands.

Commonwealth Health Center's epidemiologist Ed Diaz pointed out, though, that despite several confirmed H1N1 cases in the CNMI, there have been no virus-related deaths.

Diaz said that DPH is expecting to receive next week a second shipment of the H1N1 vaccines, totaling 56,000 shots.

"We're preparing to give out these vaccines to the schools and the general public," Diaz said.

Late last month, the CNMI received 2,400 H1N1 vaccines, specifically for pregnant women. Of these vaccines, 900 were actual shots while the rest were to be administered in other ways such as spraying in the patient's nose.

If both shipments are not enough to meet the demand, DPH will ask for more, Diaz said.

He said the H1N1 vaccines were first made available to pregnant women, health care workers, and emergency management workers while the next shipment will be given to students and members of the community.

Diaz said DPH has noted a "very positive response" from the community. "The response [from pregnant women] is well. There's great interest in getting it," he said.

He said that, based on the type of patients being treated at the hospital, DPH has a "degree of confidence" that some of these cases are probable H1N1 cases.

"It doesn't really matter anymore if it is positive or not. We have to treat it and deal with it because we're sure that H1N1 is still circulating. That's enough to tell us that it is still here," he said.

Diaz said DPH continues to promote the Flu Watch campaign to educate the community on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

The total number of H1N1 vaccines that have already been administered was not immediately available.

SPC team visits CHC

DPH held a news briefing yesterday to introduce a three-member team from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, who will be here for a week. The group is composed of consultants Albert Gurusamy and Salanieta Elburne, and SPC epidemiologist Tony Kolbe.

Diaz said the group will assess how SPC can help DPH in its technical needs.

SPC is a regional intergovernmental organization whose membership includes both nations and territories. It aims to develop the technical, professional, scientific, research, planning and management capability of Pacific Island people and directly provide information and advice.

Saipan Tribune learned that the visiting group also provided training on how to use a new microscope that will be used for influenza testing. The new microscope is called immuno fluorescent, which will augment existing influenza testing.

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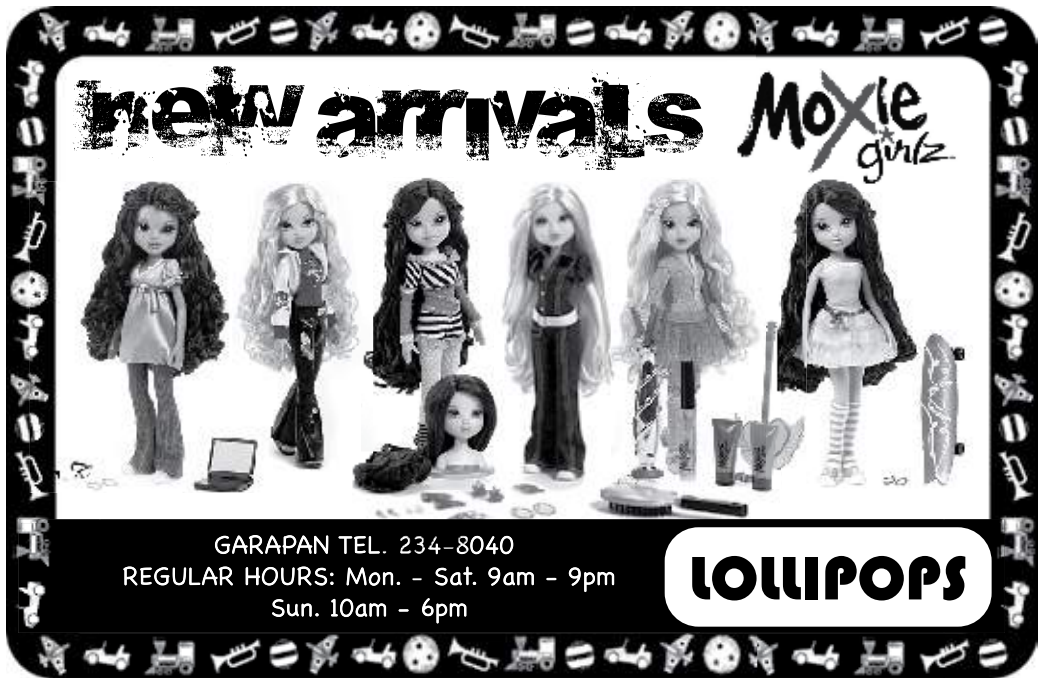

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San Antonio school lauds outstanding employees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The San Antonio Elementary School has chosen Catherine Acera-Cabrera, Ronald Olopai, and Manny Quitaneg as its outstanding personnel of the year, and the three will compete in the Public School System's annual search for education awardees this month.

Acera-Cabrera, 28, was named the school's Teacher of the Year and will vie for the prestigious overall honor with 19 other nominees from all public schools on three islands.

Acera-Cabrera has been with the system for nine years. She started as teacher aide in San Antonio and is now in her fifth year as a regular classroom teacher for sixth graders.

She disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that this was the first time she actually bagged the honor after being nominated several times.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

San Antonio Elementary School's Teacher of the Year Catherine Acera-Cabrera and Teacher Aide of the Year Ronald Olopai are among this year's nominees for the PSS Education Awards.

"I am very humbled and I didn't expect it," she said, adding that she shares the recognition with her colleagues in SAES who all deserve to be recognized for their hard work.

"At first, I didn't want to accept [the award] because I know all teachers in San Antonio deserve this honor…but when they told me that it's my turn this year, that's when I accepted it," she said.

To be an effective educator, Acera-Cabrera said patience and dedication are key factors. This mother of one child said she treats each and every student in her class like her own sons and daughters who deserve to receive guidance and protection.

She described the trust that parents, students and colleagues place in her as a more than enough reward.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

San Antonio School acting principal Katrina Lizama poses with the school's Support Staff of the Year awardee, Manny Quitaneg.

Teacher Aide of the Year

Ronald Olopai, 37, was unanimously chosen as San Antonio's Teacher Aide of the Year awardee for his consistent dedication and hard work for students.

Olopai was with the PSS Head Start Program and the Garapan Elementary School prior to working at SAES. He is now in his ninth year at San Antonio, serving as a general teacher aide for upper grade levels.

This is the fourth time Olopai bagged the school's Teacher Aide of the Year recognition. In 2004 and 2005, PSS named him to the overall title of Teacher Aide of the Year across the Commonwealth.

Olopai said seeing how children grow and succeed in their primary years is enough fulfillment for him.

Olopai attends to 125 fourth to sixth graders daily, teaching them physical education. San Antonio is home to over 300 students this school year.

Support Staff of the Year

Hailed as the school's Support Staff of the Year is 59-year-old Manny Quitaneg. He has been the school's maintenance worker for 14 years now.

Quitaneg said he is very happy upon learning of the recognition and dedicated the honor to his family.

Saipan Tribune learned that Quitaneg has been performing many tasks beyond the call of duty. On many occasions, he would accompany sick students to their homes to ensure that they can rest and be taken cared of.

He also makes sure that facilities are safe and ready for use by over 300 children everyday.

San Antonio school is under the guidance and monitoring of acting Principal Katrina S. Lizama.

Arnold and I are humbled by the overwhelming show of support and encouragement that we received during the campaign. It reawakened an appreciation for duty and public service that w will work hard to reintroduce to governance in the years to come. This campaign also magnified the importance of involving our young people in the political process. It is time to pass the torch from one generation to the next generation.

We have been deeply touched by your personal stories and your warm welcome during our house to house visits over these past months.

We thank our supporters, friends, family, and the many other, who railed to our candidacy, and wish them well in the weeks, months, and years to come. Our thanks is extended to gubernatorial candidate Juam N. Babauta and his supporters for their friendship and contribution to unifying the party and this community.

We remain committed to the principles espoused in this campaign season, and with your support on Saturday, will work hard to achieve these objectives in the time ahead.

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Boat crew found drowned man at sea bottom

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The body of Armando Alampayan, a 30-year-old Filipino farmer who drowned while spear fishing Wednesday at Micro Beach, was recovered at the bottom of the sea that was about 10 to 12 feet deep.

It was Ron Chisato, an employee/passenger of a boat who discovered Alampayan's body in the water and dove to the bottom to get him.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that Chisato held Alampayan and brought him up to the boat.

Dwayne Pangelinan, captain of the boat that is owned by Windsurfing Saipan Marine Sports, helped Chisato pull the victim to the boat.

Tarkong said Alampayan had no pulse and was not breathing at the time.

Tarkong said Chisato and Pangelinan started cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the victim and transported him to the shoreline where DPS medics were already waiting.

Medics took over and continued CPR on the victim, who was then transported by an ambulance to the Commonwealth Health Center. Dr. Trenth Scheibe pronounced the victim dead at 12:05pm.

Tarkong said that on Wednesday at 11:34am, DPS responded to Micro Beach after receiving a call about a drowning incident. When police officers arrived, the victim was brought to shore by a boat and medics began performing CPR on him.

Preliminary investigation showed that Alampayan was spear fishing with three local males at Micro Beach beginning at 8am.

Around 11am, one of the fishermen who partnered with Alampayan began heading back toward the shore because his feet were sore.

Alampayan and his partner were on the reef line and started heading to shore. They, however, got slowly separated.

Later, the partner heard Alampayan shouting and waving his hands. The victim threw his mask and snorkel away, signaling for help.

The partner flagged down a boat that was passing by. The captain pulled him onto the boat and they went to the area where Alampayan was last seen. They discovered the victim's fins but could not locate the victim.

Another boat being piloted by Pangelinan assisted in the search. Chisato, who was in the boat, spotted the victim in the water.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 6, 2000

It's a landslide for BB tandem

Resident Representative to the United States Juan N. Babauta and running-mate Rep. Diego T. Benavente won by a landslide in the open primary conducted last Saturday by the Republican Party. Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and running-mate Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez immediately conceded defeat after their opponents slowly edged out and eventually led with a margin of 1,199 votes. Based on unofficial results, Babauta-Benavente garnered 5,419 votes, while Pepero-Kiyu got 4,220. The winning team won in almost all the polling precincts on Saipan. It also took Rota, but lost to the other camp on Tinian.

Pepero-Kiyu: We will respect the people's decision

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez graciously accepted their defeat in the Republican primary Saturday saying they will honor the people's decision. "I'm going to keep my word. I've told the people that I'm going to support the party and that means I'm not going to run," Mr. Sablan said, as he wished rivals CNMI Resident Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta and Rep. Diego T. Benavente the best of luck. After his term of office in December 2001, Mr. Sablan said he will now be able to spend more time with his family. "I think I should now consider my future and my family. I'll let the young ones do the job. I've worked hard and dedicated my life to serving the people but now is the time that I should work hard for my family," he added.

Nov. 6, 2001

BB administration braces for worst

The incoming Republican administration will have their work cut out for them, as they face plunging revenues, accumulating deficit, and a crippled private sector that has yet to recover from the one-two punch of the Asian crisis and the September 11 attacks. Foremost among the priorities that the Babauta team will have to address is turning around the revenue trend, which has disturbingly been going down a slippery slope since 1997, when revenues were at their highest at $248.4 million. Since then, total revenue collected by the government has gone down to $242.2 million in 1998, $240.9 million in 1999, and $230.2 million in 2000, equivalent to a 7-percent decrease.

Hundreds of votes fail to make it to the tally sheet

All votes could have made it to the tally sheet had Northern Marianas voters been thoroughly educated on the proper way of filling out ballots in the November 3 elections. Numerous ballots were spitted out by the newly-acquired tabulation machine due to overvoting, blank spaced and incorrect markings. This, even as the Commission on Election put up measures which assured that all valid votes are counted. Some 482 ballots that contained incorrect markings were refused by the tabulation machines.

Nov. 6, 2002

Delays take toll on businesses

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is keeping a tight watch on the developments concerning labor discussions in the West Coast ports, in efforts to derail possible adverse impacts another lockout would have on the supply of foods and other necessities in the Northern Marianas. This, as some restaurants and hotels on Saipan have reportedly suspended some promotional projects due to delayed arrival of their orders from the mainland United States. Reports claimed that the delay in the arrival of shipments from the mainland is slowly taking its toll on some food establishments on Saipan, which have reportedly let go of their scheduled projects due to the disrupted arrival of their supplies.

GHLI privatization talks kick off

The Babauta administration formally floated the rough draft of legislation that proposes to privatize government health insurance, in a meeting with Health, Legislature and Retirement Fund officials at the Governor's Office yesterday. The meeting officially started discussions on the possibility of letting the private sector take over a public health insurance program besieged with funding woes. Rep. Benjamin B. Seman, Chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, said he would take the proposed measure back to the Legislature and consult with his fellow House members and Senate counterparts.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Miss Marianas hosts pumpkin fundraiser

Stellar Marianas, the islands' non-profit pageant group, announced yesterday that a Pumpkin Craze Fundraiser is scheduled for today, Friday, Nov. 6, at Price Costco from 4pm to 7pm.

The fundraiser is for 2008 Miss Marianas Universe Sorene Maratita's participation in the 2009 Miss International Pageant in Chengdu, China scheduled for next week.

The group is inviting the community to please come and help support the islands' titleholder and purchase a $10 ticket for a choice of Pumpkin Pie, Pumpkin Bread, Pumpkin Muffins or Pumpkin Cookies.

Sorene will also be on hand for photo opportunities and thank you card signing. For tickets, call Laila Boyer at 888-1609. ***(PR)***

Notice on Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

Today, Nov. 6, 2009, is the last day that NMPASI will accept applications for assistance under the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program for Saipan residents until further notice.

For residents of Tinian and Rota the NMPASI staff will be accepting applications and conducting intakes for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program at the Tinian and Rota Northern Marianas Housing Corp. offices.

The staff of NMPASI will be on Tinian Nov. 9, from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm and on Nov. 10, from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. For Rota residents, NMPASI staff will on Rota Nov. 12, at 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm and on Nov. 13, at 8am to 12pm and 1am to 4pm.

Applicants should stop by and pick up applications and brochures to avail if qualified for the HPRP program. For more information and inquiries contact NMHC Rota at 532-9410, NMHC Tinian at 433-9212, NMPASI at 235-7273/4 TTY: 235-7278, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000 TTY: 664-7002 or Coalition for Anti-Stigma of Mental Illness at 288-5293. ***(PR)***

Survivors, families and friends encouraged to walk

Team Courage is inviting all cancer survivors, their families and friends to join them on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, at the Garapan Fishing Base for the first-ever Thanks For Giving Walk. The Thanks For Giving Walk is coordinated by CNMI cancer survivors and will start at 7am.

Participating in this event is an opportunity for families and friends to get a head start in fielding a team for the MMAC event next year. A Thanks For Giving Walk T-shirt will be given to the first 100 walkers/joggers with a $5 minimum donation.

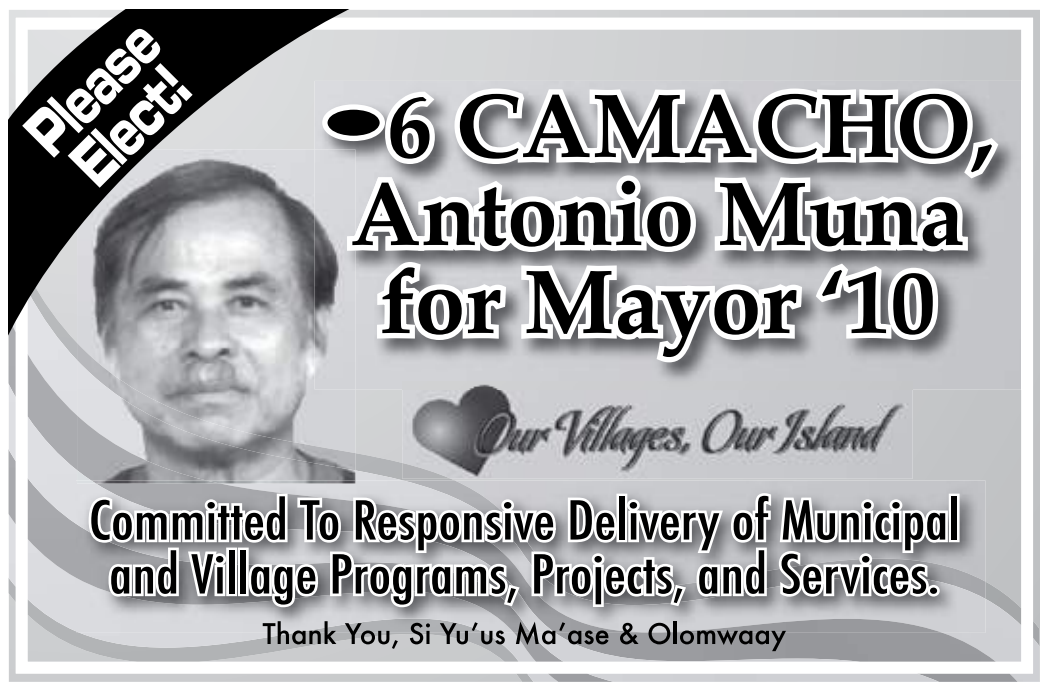
Interested in joining, but don't have a team yet? No worries! Contact Janine Nogis at 483-4207 or send an email to MMAC2010@googlegroups.com. ***(PR)***

DEQ Brigade sets cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009, starting at 8am at the entrance to the beach at COP. Volunteers will split into groups and go east or west, cleaning the beach and parking lots until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500.

Operation NMC SROTC set

Returning CNMI cadets from the University of Guam's Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps will be hosting "Operation NMC SROTC" at the Northern Marianas College Student Center on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, from 1pm-2pm. These returning student leaders will be hosting an information session regarding the CNMI's Army Officer producing program available at NMC for all interested individuals considering the military as a career. The purpose of this event is to explain the significance of the Corps, its integral role in CNMI and its contribution to the success of CNMI cadets. ***(PR)***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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
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Notes from the Hill

By MARIA FRICA T. PANGELINAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maria Frica T. Pangelinan is a senator in the 16th Northern Marianas Legislature.

Budgetary issues

Timeliness

Another fiscal year has started with the government on continuing resolution. Getting a workable budget in place on time is a big job, but is arguably the Legislature's foremost responsibility.

The implementation of timely budgets will continue to be an issue until a spirit of proactive teamwork is maintained between the administration and the two houses of the Legislature during the budgetary process.

The legislative initiative currently on the ballot regarding the budget is not the best path to a solution. I cannot support it. Suspension of salaries is only a temporary penalty. The governor and the Legislature could simply "borrow" money until their salaries are unsuspended or they could even fall prey to the temptation to just pass a budget that satisfies the deadline, even a budget that has no sound justifications for the appropriations it contains. The proposal is fraught with unintended consequences and does not resolve the actual problem. Any solution should put real liability on the individual or individuals who incur a deficit or exceed the resources estimated.

A budget passed without taking into account and prioritizing the needs of the people when considering the funding of services is tantamount to authorizing child support and not being sure it will be used for the benefit or interest of the child rather than for other purposes.

The Fiscal Deficit

A built-in deficit is an even more serious issue when discussing the budget. In FY2009 the estimated resources included collecting $4.1 million from the MPLT. This was an unresolved issue that did not even become a subject of discussion until June 2009, the third quarter of the fiscal year. This puts the Legislature in a position of being pressured by the reality of an operational deficit while examining the issue of whether or not MPLT should transfer the funds to the General Fund.

On July 9th of this year the Senate passed and transmitted to the House SLI 16-13, which deals with this issue and others. Unfortunately, there has been no action on it since. I believe it to be a sound and comprehensive solution to the real problems in this area.

Spending Controls

The lack of spending controls under continuing resolution status is a loophole that was acknowledged as far back as during the 3rd Constitutional Convention, but not yet resolved.

After chairing the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, I am pointedly aware that the Planning and Budgeting Act, although a sound foundation and guide, is in need of updating. We have proposed some of those updates in the version of the FY2010 Appropriations Act passed by the Senate.

The Planning and Budgeting Act currently does not require enough accountability and is too generous in certain areas, such as reprogramming authority. The scope of what may occur after a budget is enacted is such that the appropriations made by the Legislature can easily be diverted to other departments and programs, effectively negating much of the budget's original intent.

I'd like to see more department heads and expenditure authorities set efficiency and production goals, understand their mission, stay within the financial limits of their quarterly personnel allotments, and not overspend simply because they think they can come back and receive more.

An overview of the financial situation for FY2010

The General Fund's estimated revenues are approximately $150 million.

Between the Public School System, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Public Safety, Corrections, the Judicial Branch, and the Northern Marianas College including the Apprenticeship program, proposed appropriations are roughly $96 million.

This represents the anticipated costs of providing the basic services of health, education, and safety to the people of the CNMI. It is approximately two-thirds of the anticipated revenues in FY2010. The balance in the General Fund still available to appropriate is roughly $54 million.

Utilities are currently about $1 million per month. At an anticipated $12 million for FY2010, the General Fund available balance drops to $42 million.

The balance of $42 million will be utilized by the First Senatorial District of Rota, the Second Senatorial District of Tinian, not including DPS and DPH, the Third Senatorial District in Saipan, the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Commerce, Community and Cultural Affairs, Department of Finance, Department of Labor, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works, boards and commissions, and independent and other programs.

These figures are rough, and subject to further negotiation, but are accurate enough to give you the big picture.

Funding Earmarks

Another issue that is needs improvement is the issue of earmarked funding. By not conducting an annual legislative review, such a law can actually waste taxpayer money by automatically spending it each year on a program that no longer serves its original purpose of creating benefit for the people.

The Defined Benefit Plan

What the figures I've summarized do not tell you are that all personnel who are members of the Defined Benefit Plan will have their employer contribution calculated and paid at 16 percent of their gross salary which is about half of the current actuarially determined rate, and therefore FY2010 will automatically incur a deficit based on the difference between the two rates.

There is no question that the Retirement Fund is in financial distress but viable solutions are no longer easily achieved and are going to be complex. There is a constitutional mandate that benefits for vested employees cannot be reduced. There are different approaches in actuarial studies that must be clearly understood. All vested employees have an equal right to benefit from the program. Ultimately, the responsibility of our government is to ensure that the program will not collapse.

Let's get something really clear here. I'm a member of the DBP. I want to retire. Just like most long-term public employees I'm depending on the solvency of the plan to provide me with retirement benefits per the promises made during my years of employment with the government. Am I concerned? Yes, absolutely. I fought for months to get amendments to the Defined Benefit Plan and the creation of a Defined Contribution Plan passed. It lowered the full funding requirement of the pension plan by approximately $2 billion by 2045. This is not a typographical error, $2 billion. This was a long and difficult process. There will always be those who will jump to the conclusion that when a legislator takes up the issue of reforming the pension plan it is an attack on the institution. I urge all citizens to approach subsequent proposed legislation on this issue to read the bills, ask questions, and weigh the facts before coming to a conclusion.

The NMIRF has also taken some steps to alleviate some of the current concerns. Some of them I do not agree with and some make sense. The lawsuit was a waste of taxpayer money. In the end it made no change to what is needed: to sit down and work out a solution without jeopardizing critical government services. The government is obligated to pay for the DBP regardless of whether there was a lawsuit or not. Tightening the parameters regarding who may be considered a beneficiary makes sense, and I credit the NMIRF in taking this step to protect the fund. Holding the retirement benefits of a qualified applicant hostage in an effort to pressure the government into paying the deficient employer contribution is something I strenuously disagree with and wonder at its legality. Hopefully this question will be answered soon.

The concern is no longer focused on the long-term issues. The crisis is centered on the day-to-day logistics of paying benefits to current and qualified retirees and their beneficiaries.

The deficient employer contribution is now approximately $245 million. The General Fund revenues for FY2010 are estimated at $150 million, about $96 million of which is anticipated as being needed for the basic services of health, education, and safety.

Simply writing a check to pay off the deficiency is not possible, but more work is required to resolve the issue.

We can discuss the mistakes that have brought us to the current

See BUDGETARY on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wacky money and big debts

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Here's a pop quiz in Pacific economics: Which of the following nations has the highest amount of government debt? We'll use debt as a percentage of economic output (Gross Domestic Product) as the way to measure this; this is sort of like you figuring your personal debt as a percentage of how much you earn per year. Here are your choices:

1) Mexico
2) Japan
3) Republic of the Philippines
4) Thailand

Before we get to the answer, I'll get to this prediction: I think there are some days of reckoning coming in the debt world, and this might trigger big surprises in many related realms, including exchange rates. This has already happened in the U.S., of course, but there is more action on the way, and it may hit the west side of the Pacific. And, as you know, the Commonwealth's tourism industry is tied into currency matters, since it affects the spending power of tourists. Thus far, the extremely strong Japanese yen (vs. the U.S. dollar) has been a favorable situation for those trying to sell to the Japanese.

That's all well and good, but I don't see Japan's economy as invincible. I see it as vulnerable.

In fact, of the countries I listed at the start of this column, the one with the biggest debt is, yes, Japan. Japan's debt is forecast to hit about 200 percent of GDP next year; this is the highest, by far, in the industrial world. Uncle Sam, which is committing economic suicide by debt, will weigh in at nearly 100 percent of GDP for public debt next year; every government agency from the local dog pound to the federal government seems to be issuing bonds (debt) these days.

In fact, looking at last year's numbers, since I don't have forecasts for all these places, Uncle Sam and Japan are listed with debt levels higher than Mexico (19 percent), the Philippines (56 percent), and Thailand (38 percent).

As for China, I don't have any forecasts for their public debt, but last year is was just 16 percent of GDP, and I doubt it will wiggle much from there in the immediate future. So this gives us an interesting contrast in the world's top three national economies: We've got rich Uncle Sam and rich Japan looting themselves into fiscal oblivion, while China has engaged in incredible fiscal discipline.

As for South Korea, which has long been my favorite economy (hey, some people have favorite football teams, so why can't I have favorite economies?), last year it weighed in at 24.4 percent. That's not as impressive as China, but, compared to the old-line industrial nations, it's still impressive.

Right now, there is so much wacky money and so many slippery financial "bailout" schemes floating around, that financial markets are utterly un-tethered from reality. But once the smoke clears, it looks to me like China and South Korea have the best chances of having their feet on solid economic ground.

And, for this reason and others, I think that China and South Korea will, in the long run, have higher growth rates in outward bound tourists than Japan will. Of course, the big question is always when the long run will arrive, and nobody ever knows that.

Think about your own debt situation at home; if your income is steady, or rising, then you probably don't worry about your debts a lot. But if you lose your job, or get your pay cut, then debt can keep you awake at night, and the long run fast arrives.

The same factor is going to apply on a global scale. Nobody is flashing red warning lights about Japanese and U.S. debt now, but I think they will, sooner or later. I'll note that many types of tax revenues in both nations have plunged, which is a sign of underlying economic troubles.

I'm not giving investment advice, or anything close to it; I'm merely looking at some overall economic factors. But to be gentlemanly I will disclose that I speculate in yen and other currencies with my pipsqueak piggy bank. Hey, it keeps me out of the casinos and off the streets.

As for the Commonwealth, there's not a whole lot it can do about this stuff, but those of you in the business realm might want to keep an eye on it. When it moves, it will probably move fast, and exchange rates, interest rates, loan terms, and the quality of your receivables might move faster than you anticipated.

Letters to the Editor

No to OGA initiative!

Dear citizens of the Commonwealth: You are being asked at the polls to vote on whether to expand the bounds of the current Open Government Act to the Legislature or not. While the idea of open access sounds good and while the proponents of this ill-advised offensive resort to pleas based mostly on feel-good rhetoric, the truth of the matter is that *it is a recipe for disaster*. Calls for openness based on a naïve view of how this or any other Legislature works don't offset the harm that will befall the CNMI if this full tilt assault on reasonable, effective government actually succeeds.

Critics will come out of the woodwork to claim that anyone who does not favor this silly proposal is hiding something, has no common sense or hates puppies and babies. Do not fall for these childish logical fallacies. Good citizens, do not be suckered into a mistake that will cost us all dearly both short term and long. I, too, thought it sounded good at first, but a thorough review of the consequences proved otherwise and I have since removed my support for the OGA initiative. You should too.

There is a proper way to approach this by drafting new legislation or by greatly modifying the current law and by cross-checking every detail to make sure it does not backfire when implemented. That is not being advocated. These activists want to try to fit a square peg into a round hole. Simply stampeding ahead because it sounds like the right thing to do will only lead to severe problems later. They don't seem to care. They only want to fix the paint job, not the body rust under it.

How could anyone be against the idea of applying the *existing* Open Government Act to the Legislature, they ask. Here is how:

First, this Open Government Act, like most others is written to specifically curb excesses, reveal closeted deals and generally open up access to an Executive Branch. To assume you can just rubber stamp it and make the same system apply to the completely different operation of a legislative branch is wrong and will not work. Several problems surface immediately others will appear as time goes by. These will be discussed in further detail as we read on.

Second, the U.S. Congress has passed an OGA that applies to the U.S. Executive Branch but does not include itself for reasons you will see as we go on with this discussion. The U.S. law *excludes* Congress, the courts and private businesses. Majority of U.S. state legislatures do not include themselves in the OGAs of their respective states. The majority precedent in the U.S. is to *exclude* legislative branches in OGAs. The reasons are complex, but understandable and have noting to do with "hiding" anything.

Third, if this exercise is meant to "track the money," it is pointless and all of its negative ramifications would be suffered for nothing. We already have a lobbyist disclosure law to find out who influenced whom. Citizens or anyone else has access to how every government dime has been spent already. A simple trip to the Finance Department, currently subject to the OGA, will reveal where every expenditure went, to whom, when and for how much. What else is needed? There are several major harms and if chasing the money is what this is all about you can access those money records right now. So jump on it if you feel the need.

Fourth, if you feel your elected officials are not open and forthright you have a remedy built right into the Constitution. Recall them or don't re-elect them, but don't keep them from the rightful performance of their sworn duty so you can feel good about voting for an initiative that is naïve and unworkable.

There are several other reasons not to vote for this initiative but before we move on let's look at what some of the specific *harms* might be if it is enacted as it stands.

1. The law as it now stands would be *unconstitutional* if applied to the Legislature. The enrolled bill doctrine upheld all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court holds that a bill differing in content between House and Senate need not be resolved but can move on to legal implementation solely with the signatures of the House Speaker, the Senate President and the President of the U.S. Exterior interference is not stipulated and the Constitution would have to be officially amended.

2. The current OGA says that any action taken in a non-open (by act definition) meeting is void. If the OGA is expanded to include laws, which is of course what legislators deal with, then any and all *laws could be voided* until it was proven that they were enacted in strict compliance with the letter of OGA. Was every law and every meeting to discuss that law properly advertised? Was discussion halted while a new amendment or even a slight change was advertised publicly? Were all the other notifications under OGA met? So prove it. A huge bureaucracy will unfold to keep track of all this and meanwhile it becomes a goldmine for legal specialists to jump on the bandwagon and begin to use the contested status of each and every law as a defense. You think that won't happen? You have not been to a legal office recently.

3. If every law had to be tested as above, the *Judiciary could not function*. Its days would be spent in endless argument over each law and statute and whether it met the OGA disclosure criteria. A change might be effected that would exclude laws from the OGA but no such change has been suggested by the proponents. As an example, a 10-day maximum statute of limitations could be enacted after which no OGA complaints could be made. The initiative and the law are unworkable in their current form.

4. No assurance is given in the public initiative that these or any other needed changes would be made.

5. Any *accidental quorum* of five senators meeting anywhere, at a barbecue or in church for example, would be considered an illegal meeting. Rota and Tinian delegates discuss important issues by meeting in concert because of distance logistics. Senate and House committee meetings where a broad range of topics are discussed, and many thrown out, would be considered illegal meetings if not publicly advertised. Most every meeting would not meet the disclosure provisions and would be held illegal and all discussions void.

Are you beginning to see some of the many problems associated with this OGA expansion? There are more. Let's look deeper.

6. One of the only remedies available to the Legislature in trying to comply with the restrictive Executive Branch version of OGA public notice requirements would cause the *exact opposite of the OGA spirit* of openness. To avoid violations regarding which bills were to be discussed on a particular day, the likely solution would be to advertise every bill that has been offered every single day, thus keeping the public from having any idea which bill would be discussed that day in session. How else would the flexible discussion of various content be possible?

7. Secrecy and *confidentiality is sometimes a positive* attribute. As an example, the Senate confirms many Executive Branch appointments and discusses information and backgrounds of people who may or may not get confirmation. This very personal information would be available for public disclosure under OGA. How many good candidates would step forward to help fill needed posts if they knew their personal info could be accessed by any ill-wisher who cared to get it though OGA means? Additionally, any private discourse among members about people being confirmed would be held non-compliant and the candidacy selection would become void. Such public disclosure of private information is prohibited by law but would be required by this particular act.

8. What about whistleblowers? How many do you think would come to their congressman with information if they knew that their identity could be traced back because of the OGA?

9. Lawmakers couldn't even talk about the weather around the picnic table since they would not be allowed to talk about anything they might conceivably regulate later. With environmental pundits claiming humans control the weather and calling for government "carbon footprint" monitoring and regulation, would even the weather become a taboo subject? While farfetched, you can see the pitfalls that legislators would have placed in the paths of their everyday lives.

10. The OGA, as written, has *no legal requirement for good faith* dealings or for non-malicious requests. A person interested in harming the Legislature's ability to perform could simply ask for all the documents they ever produced with the word "the" in them. That would certainly slow things down, would it not?

See NO TO on Page 22

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. North east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86 ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

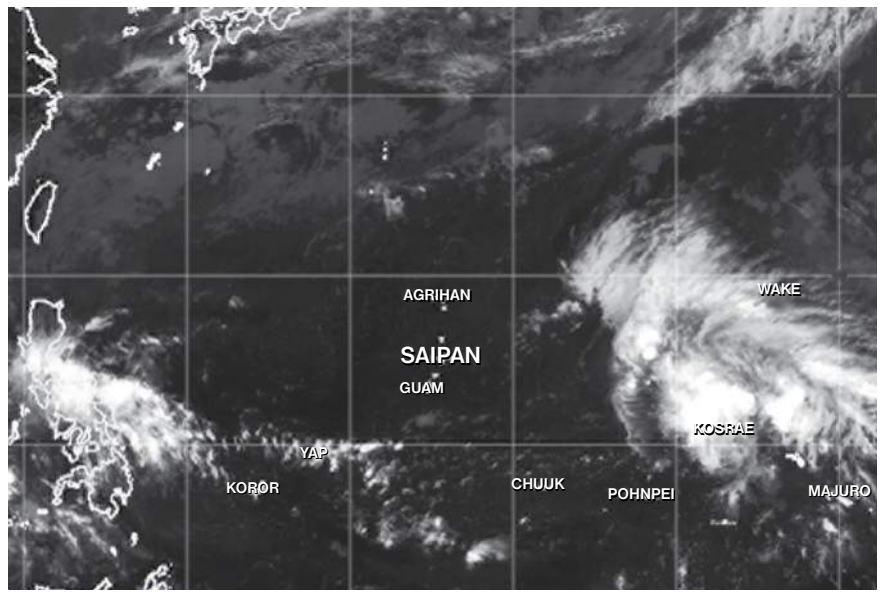
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲64	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲65	▼44
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲81	▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼74
London	Showers	▲56	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲77	▼52
Miami	Cloudy	▲82	▼70
New York	Showers	▲47	▼39
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼54
Paris	Cloudy	▲51	▼43
Pusan	Dreary	▲74	▼55
Rome	Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Salem	Rain	▲64	▼43
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼47
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲64	▼54
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲50	▼38

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear of line extends southwestward from 25N145E to 23N133E. Broken cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough extends from 3N130E to 4N135E then eastward to a weak circulation near 3N149E then curves northeastward to 11N160E then northward to 19N159E then curves northeastward to 11N150E then northward to 19N159E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstroms northeast of Pohnpei and Kosrae and southwest of Wake Island are in an area from 20N162E to 12N176E to 7N164E to 19N155E back to 20N162E. Converging east winds are causing scattered showers northeast of Palau within 75 miles of a line from 9N113E to 11N130E and near Yap within 50 miles of a line from 10N138E to 9N142E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:42 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:00 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:15 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:51 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Friday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:16 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:16 AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Friday	8:53 PM	9:23 AM
Saturday	9:57 PM	10:22 AM
Sunday	10:59 PM	11:17 AM
Monday	11:59 PM	12:07 AM
Tuesday		12:52 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

BUDGETARY

From Page 10

situation but they have been hashed and rehashed for years and are common knowledge. What is most important is what we do about it now and in the immediate future.

It is important to know the facts and work from them. Media reports are by their nature summarized and are not the best source from which to form opinions.

The budgetary proposals for FY2010

The Senate version of this year's budget includes austerity in the form of four-day work weeks. This is a politically charged and unpleasant option. Austerity is generally opposed and very political.

The House version of this coming year's budget does not include this option. Instead it holds to last year's personnel appropriations except for a few changes and makes massive and unrealistic cuts to operations. I do not agree with this choice. First, personnel levels have dropped from FY2009 by about 200. We do not need to fund jobs that are not currently filled. Second, if there is no support for austerity, which at a minimum preserves employment, a reduction in force is necessary to avoid cutting the provision of basic and necessary services.

Without austerity, the FA committee projects a $15 million short fall in FY2010 based on current employment levels. Downsizing the government is reasonable, but it has proven very difficult to get legislative support for it. We cannot justifiably take this amount from operations, which would severely curtail the ability to provide basic services. In the end, basic services of health, education, and public safety are really the fundamental reasons that a government exists.

Realistic Thinking

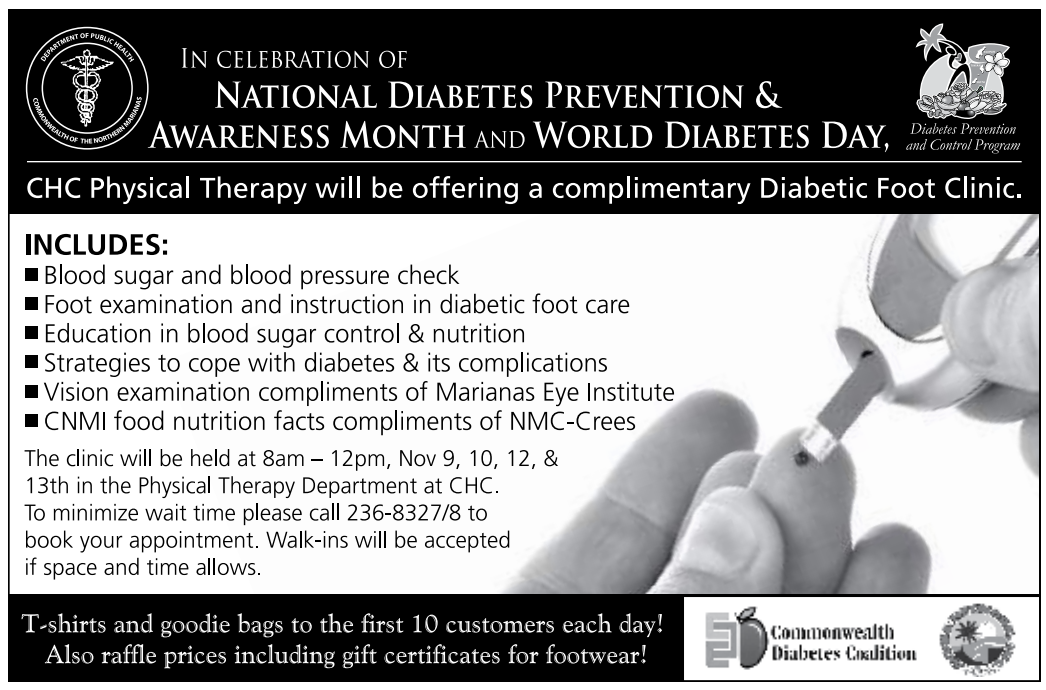
The government should not support an economy by being the provider of good paying but unjustified jobs, but rather by encouraging growth and increased employment opportunities in the private sector.

The government cannot operate on more that it receives in revenue. We've been spending in excess of appropriations for several years, and then, by the receipt of some fortunate and unexpected financial windfall, squeaking in just under the total revenues actually received. We cannot continue to hope that at the end of each year, money will magically fall into our laps and yet again bail us out.

The debt to the Defined Benefit Plan, the necessity of ongoing need to subsidize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Health Center are all sad examples of the apparent inability to exercise reality-based thinking when finalizing a fiscal budget.

What can a private citizen do?

The people of the Commonwealth are ultimately the ones who will pay for the choices being made. Get out and vote. Vote for fiscal responsibility, suitable qualifications, and realistic thinking. Your choice this weekend will have a profound influence on the financial future and quality of life in the CNMI.


IN CELEBRATION OF
NATIONAL DIABETES PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH AND WORLD DIABETES DAY,
Diabetes Prevention and Control Program
CHC Physical Therapy will be offering a complimentary Diabetic Foot Clinic.
INCLUDES:
Blood sugar and blood pressure check
Foot examination and instruction in diabetic foot care
Education in blood sugar control & nutrition
Strategies to cope with diabetes & its complications
Vision examination compliments of Marianas Eye Institute
CNMI food nutrition facts compliments of NMC-Crees
The clinic will be held at 8am – 12pm, Nov 9, 10, 12, & 13th in the Physical Therapy Department at CHC.
To minimize wait time please call 236-8327/8 to book your appointment. Walk-ins will be accepted if space and time allows.
T-shirts and goodie bags to the first 10 customers each day!
Also raffle prices including gift certificates for footwear!
Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition

How is your baby growing?
If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:
Developmental Health Watch
4 Years (48 Months) to
5 Years (60 Months)
Acts extremely aggressively
Is easily distracted and unable to concentrate on any single activity for more than five minutes
Refuses to respond to people in general, or responds only superficially
Seems unhappy or sad much of the time
Doesn't express a wide range of emotions
Can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality
Can't correctly give first and last name
Doesn't talk about his/her daily activities and experiences
Seems uncomfortable holding a crayon
Cannot brush teeth efficiently
Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had
Learn the Signs. Act Early.
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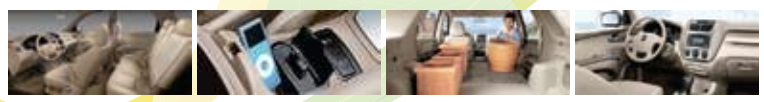

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Letter to the Editor

Privatization: Good or bad

Three of the four men running for governor think privatization is the answer to all the island's problems. I do not agree with them. Here are my reasons:

First off, whoever gets the power plant will run it only to make money. They will want to get their working capital back in five to 10 years. The only way they can do this is to raise the rates, thus costing all of us money.

Secondly, it will put all the locals that work for the power plant out of work. They will bring their own work force. All the money they make will leave the island, thus hurting the island's economy even more. The only reason that we have a problem in the power plant is politics. It does not matter how good a person is; he or she will not be hired if they are not with the political party in power. So you end up with a bunch of political hires that are incompetent and making decisions that hurt us all. This practice must be stopped. Politics is fine for a job, they should be hired no matter what party they belong to. Until that day gets here, this island will never move forward. There are enough qualified local people to run CUC, CHC and the rest of the island, if we would just use them.

There is one good way to privatize CUC that will work and make all of us some money. The residents of Saipan should form a "utility co-op." Sell shares and buy CUC. When the co-op is in place, they are ready to take over. The shareholders should have a meeting to elect a board of directors. The board of directors should then hire a management team that understands how a "utility co-op" runs. The best part of it is that the government will be out of the utility business altogether. No more political decisions or political appointees placed in positions of authority to mess things up. Whether or not you agree with me, just remember one thing: Whoever controls the power controls the island. Please, let's keep control in the hands of the local residents.

As for the proposed pay cut for government workers, if this were not so serious I would have to laugh. The Legislature, which has spent the government into near bankruptcy, now wants to punish government workers to pay for their mistakes. I say no! Let's punish the Legislature. Let's take away their contingency funds and all the rest of the perks they now get. They can get them back when the deficit is paid off. That would be justice!

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

JUAN PAN TENORIO GUERRERO & JOSEPH NORITA CAMACHO

Please Vote #4

Please Vote #4

Dear People of the Commonwealth,

When you exercise the most important of your fundamental rights – the right to vote – we ask that you do so thoughtfully, honestly, and with the best interests of our Commonwealth in mind.

Look at candidates' past histories – what opportunities they have had – and whether they made the most of, or squandered, those opportunities. Ask yourself whether you believe there needs to be a change in the direction our community is headed and in those who lead us down that road. Decide who you believe has the skills and experience necessary to lead our islands to a better future. Then cast your votes accordingly – do not be pressured by family, friends, or political parties.

We have spent most of this year talking with thousands of you individually. We know what your concerns are. We are committed to addressing the challenges facing the Commonwealth on behalf of all residents. We will do so efficiently, effectively, honestly, and transparently. We will do so within the financial means of the Commonwealth.

We will accomplish our goals, most importantly, through hiring or retaining truly qualified, competent individuals with experience in their respective fields. We will employ these people regardless of age, race, gender, or political affiliation. We will work with these employees to develop lists of deliverables in their areas of responsibility. We will hold these individuals accountable. This is how it works in private businesses and this is how it should work in government. Your vote does not merely put people into office; it puts in place standard-bearers who must be capable of leading a team.

We both have rich and diverse backgrounds – proven leadership and experience in our public and private endeavors and proven commitment to our community.

We humbly ask for your support, regardless of your family ties or your political affiliation. We are conscious of the great responsibilities to the people that will be owed by the next governor and lieutenant governor, and, if elected, we are prepared and committed to live up to the trust placed in us by voters.

God bless the People of the Commonwealth.

Juan Pan Tenorio Guerrero

Joseph James Norita Camacho

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Letters to the Editor

Extraordinarily qualified

Cinta Kaipat, Deputy Secretary of Labor, is dedicated to improving the lives of the people in the CNMI and her track record is clear—she has already done this! Now she is ready to make an even greater commitment as a member of the CNMI Senate. We encourage our friends to vote for her on Nov. 7. Cinta has the legal background, government experience, organizational skills and vision to help the CNMI and its people take critical steps forward as a member of the CNMI Senate.

My husband and I lived in the CNMI for several months each year between 2006 and 2008 when we became acquainted with Cinta through her leadership in Beautify CNMI. We could see right from the start that Cinta's drive and spirit sparked this coalition of concerned citizens and galvanized the community by cleaning up beaches, tourist sites and villages, raising environmental awareness and demonstrating the impact of volunteers who work together for the common good. All without reliance on government assistance.

Encouraging folks to work together and showing them how is one of Cinta's strong suits. She intends to continue this focus as a senator through broad community participation, public-private task forces and getting citizen input into solving some of the larger issues the community faces: economic stability, affordable quality health care, well-funded quality education, alternative power.

If you want an individual who has extraordinary qualifications to work with you as your senator we hope you will vote for Cinta Kaipat. She has dedicated her professional and personal life to public service and she intends to continue.

Nancy Kramis
Bellingham, Washington

The objective choice

It's comforting to know that there are *educated* voters like Frank Atalig from Rota, who understand and appreciate the advantage the present administration has over the other gubernatorial teams. Mr. Atalig's arguments are right on target, not to mention the fact that the Fitial/Inos administration has taken special interest in the rebound of Rota's economy by their active participation with potential casino investors for Rota. Any educated voter would agree that the windfall to be realized plus the disruption of services to the public are reason enough to maintain the course to its conclusion. Any other choice is counterproductive.

Clamoring for a change is not a justifiable reason to change course in the middle of the storm, especially so when there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. Let's face it. This race is pretty much between Fitial/Inos and Hofchneider/Palacios. As an educated voter, ask yourself: Do I maintain the course on Fitial/Inos with a potential windfall around the corner, or do I risk the future of my family and friends with Heinz who lacks the ability to manage his allocated budget? Vote objectively and sleep well.

A simple reminder to the people of Rota: Like Abigail Manglona said, "It is very important that you all think for a better future." Let us pick candidates who have a successful track record and have the ability to think outside the box to resolve the issues facing our community. We need independent thinkers, not the same old deceptive slogans.

In addition, the Rota Municipal Council plays a major role in the administration of the casino initiative. Please vote for candidates who have the education, political maturity, and integrity to help implement and enforce the requirements of the Rota Gaming Act as a whole.

Andy M. Ramos
Rota

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Do we want more of the same?

Governor Benigno R. Fitial supports the imposition of 64-hour week, saying "it will be very difficult to make ends meet, [without the austerity measure]." *November 5, 2009 Marianas Variety*

The last time Governor Fitial imposed austerity measures, he cut employee hours. He ignored it completely. Governor Fitial ignores the sacrifices of government employees.

- **He continues to hire nonessential employees**
- **He refused, in the name of "austerity" to honor COLAs, in-step increases, promotions**
- **He still refuses to pay the government's Retirement Fund obligations**
- **He refuses to hire U.S. certified physicians, nurses, and technical staff**
- **He refuses to honor the constitutional provision requiring a retirement of the Deficit**
- **He continues to deficit spend without any tangible benefit**
- **He continues to forego payments to vendors, thus breaking many small businesses**

Governor Fitial says if you want more of the same, vote for him.
Ask yourselves, can we afford more of the same?

The Commonwealth government must begin to act responsibly if it wishes to regain the confidence of its people and the business community.

Don't BE fooled again!

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Article 12: Restrictions on alienation of land

Editor's Note: The following is a short write-up of a series prepared by the Citizens for Change of Article 12 regarding specific part of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

Third part of a series

Section 1 of Article 12 restricts acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property within the Commonwealth to person of Northern Marianas descent.

Who are Northern Marianas descents? An earlier publications appearing on the local newspapers talked about who is a person of Northern Marianas descent. It is clearly a political definition and has nothing to do with bloodline. The first Constitutional Convention was clear in its analysis that the third generation of children would likely be affected by this restricted political definition and would start creating a problem of real descendants not being able to inherit their forefathers land.

Part of Article 12, Section 2 Acquisition is: The term acquisition used in Section 1 includes acquisition by sale, lease, gift, inheritance or other means. A transfer to a spouse by inheritance is not an acquisition under this section if the owner dies without issue or with issue not eligible to own land in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Of interest here is the fact that although many are saying Article 12 is good and should not be abolished or change as it protects the locals by keeping land within the family, the part of Section 2 as shown above says that landownership can be transfer to a non-NMD spouse by inheritance if there are no children born during the marriage or the children are not eligible to own land.

One part of this is good and in is in keeping with the traditional concept of marriage—two people working together as one. However all falls apart if the married couple have children eligible to own land. The non-NMD is left out completely form the inheritance. What about any improvement made on that property such as a house? Is this right or just?

A non-NMD child adopted under the age of 18 by NMD parents can inherit land as that child by virtual of being adopted by NMD parents is now NMD. Under Article 12, Section 1 and 2, they can own land.

We pose the question: What really is Article 12? Just from the above, one wonders if Article 12 is needed. If so, for what and why? Again, a non-NMD through adoption can own land just as an NMD person by birth.

We will present in the next write-up landownership through the "eyes" of blood quantum. We will show an instance where an adopted child of non-NMD blood actually having stronger standing on landownership than a child from a mixed NMD and non-NMD parents. It is the intend by the presenter of this article to encourage a reading of Article 12 and all the document in the constitutional conventions and, most importantly, the Analysis.

Letter to the Editor

Open letter to the people of the Commonwealth

The 2009 general election is just a step away and, considering the many challenges we face today, there is so much uncertainties for the future. The socio-economic and political landscape of our islands has been badly battered by the global financial crisis and our political instabilities. If we truly love and cherish our Commonwealth and the future of our children, we must begin to accept responsibility for our misdeeds and pray for courage and wisdom se we can start doing the right things. Arrogance and greed have distorted our values and now we find ourselves molded into the "survival of the fittest" mode where dog eats dog. None of us want to live in this predicament but we continue to allow it to happen because we are not prudent in the way we do things.

Many families, friends and supporters have given and dedicated their best to their candidates during the campaign in the last couple of months. It is time for the candidates to take their hats off and appreciate the hard work. Let us give each other a high five for running a clean and honorable campaign. Whether I win or lose this election, I call on all unsuccessful candidates to join the winners in their quest to improve the lives of our people so we can stop them from continuing to leave our Commonwealth and encourage those who already left to come home and help us rebuild our islands' economy for our children's future. But in order to accomplish this we must start changing our mentality and attitudes because the world is constantly changing but we're still hanging on to the old-fashioned way of life. I'm not suggesting that we throw away our precious family and traditional values but to make necessary adjustments to cope with current and future conditions.

We have been talking about improving this and improving that, making all sorts of promises but we're still in the hole and, from all indications, I believe we will continue to go further south. These failures are basically because we are not caring, there is no compassion and, most of all, we are not sincere. Having said all these, I respectfully call and urge everyone of us to go to the polls on Nov. 7 and exercise our civic duty by electing the most sincere candidate who can pay enough attention and help address our needs. Vote for someone who is willing to reach out and give you access and opportunity to improve your children's life. Remember, this election is about compassion, caring, respect, and sincerity. God bless us all and our Commonwealth.

Candy Babauta Taman
As Matuis, Saipan

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T06-05291L	2006	SIENNA CE	AUTO	124063	WHITE	ABY-919	12,599	
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U07-034T	2004	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
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TOYOTA ACDelco

WHO WAS Heinz Hofschneider? WHAT DID HE DO FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI?

What did Heinz Hofschneider accomplish in 16 years as a member of the House of Representatives to help protect and improve the lives of our people? Nothing, Taya, Eseyoor, Walla, Nada. Heinz failed miserably to protect our self-government, preserve our economic tools to grow and develop our economy, and help improve our standard of living, governance and public services. **Did you know that Heinz Hofschneider tried to impeach the late Governor Larry Iglesias Deleon Guerrero?** Heinz tried to impeach Governor Guerrero, his own daughter's grandfather, out of personal vindictiveness—biased justice. **This is what Heinz Hofschneider did to former Northern Marianas College President Agnes Manglona McPhetres:** Heinz conducted a **subjective and hostile** oversight hearing with the intention of having NMC President Agnes McPhetres prosecuted and her reputation ruined, BUT the oversight hearing ended without benefit to the College or the Community. Heinz came out empty-handed—failed miserably. **Here's what Heinz Hofschneider did to former CUC director and Senator Ramon S. Deleon Guerrero:** Heinz conducted a vicious oversight hearing to remove Kumoi from CUC. Heinz failed again.

Heinz, Tina Sablan and Edward Salas sponsored The Resident Foreign National Status Act of 2008, House Bill No. 16-86: Introduced on April 2008 and died in the House on August 2008 with the opposition of the CNMI Indigenous Group. ***Who was Heinz representing? Non-U.S. citizens, Foreigners—taotao hi'yong.*** **The Resident Foreign National Status Act of 2008, House Bill No. 16-86,** was a "special interest" bill sponsored by Heinz and Tina Sablan solely to serve the interests of foreigners as follows:

1. Circumvent the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act.
2. Grant permanent residency to nearly 20,000 contract workers in the first year after passage, and thousands in the years to follow. [Source: Analysis of H.B. 16-86's impact, dated April 23, 2008.]
3. Virtually every contract worker in the Commonwealth will become eligible for a residence status, including their immediate relatives, that can be renewed indefinitely, and thus is permanent. –Comments on H.B. 18-86 by Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat, April 23, 2008.
4. House Bill 16-86 offers no protection against fraud, invites evasion and serves only the interests of foreign workers. [Source: Comments on Bill, filed, dated April 23, 2008]
5. House Bill 16-86 offers no appropriate protection or compensating benefits for the citizens of the Commonwealth. [Source: Comments on Bill, filed, dated April 23, 2008]

It would have been a disaster if Heinz' H.B. 16-86 passed. Why? The indigenous population and voters in the CNMI would have been outnumbered, outvoted and deprived of jobs and other opportunities, including policy-making, and lawmaking privileges would be things of the past. Heinz tried, and would try to do the same things, if he were elected governor.

Your vote in Ben and Eloy's favor is a vote to protecting against becoming minorities in our own islands. Fanachu Chamorro yan Refalawasch pot direchun miyu yan para I man mamaila na generasion. Don't take chances with unproven, untested leadership. There is too much at stake. We need to continue the fight and stay the course with ***Ben & Eloy***. During these challenging and fast-changing times, the only option is to stick with proven leadership and proven experience.

VOTE for **Ben & Eloy** Bota si **Ben & Eloy**
Thank you Si Yu'us Ma'ase Oloomway
Paid for by Republican, Democrat and Independent Friends of Ben & Eloy

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

#2

Benigno R. Fitial
GOVERNOR

Eloy S. Inos
LT. GOVERNOR

SENATOR

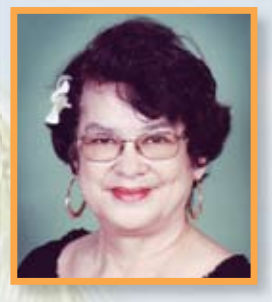
Ana S. Teregeyo
Saipan
#3

Jacinta M. Kaipat
Saipan
#4

Jose M. Mendiola
Tinian – Incumbent
#2

Joaquin H. Borja
Tinian
#4

MAYOR



Marian DLG. Tudela
Saipan
#8

Jose P. San Nicolas
Tinian – Incumbent
#1

Ramona T. Rebuenog
Northern Islands
#2

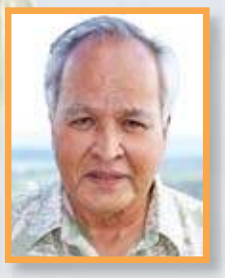
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Antonia M. Tudela
Precinct 1
#7

Benjamin M. Cepeda
Precinct 1
#5

Canice K. Taitano
Precinct 1
#13

Vicente C. Cabrera
Precinct 1
#9



Froilan C. Tenorio
Precinct 1
#4

Raymond D. Palacios
Precinct 2 – Incumbent
#6

Ralph S. Demapan
Precinct 2
#5

David R. Maratita
Precinct 3
#12

Edmund S. Villagomez
Precinct 3
#7

Felicidad T. Ogumoro
Precinct 3
#4

Jesus M. Elameto
Precinct 3
#2

Henry K. Rabauliman
Precinct 3
#13

Sylvestre I. Iguel
Precinct 4
#4

Thomas J. Camacho
Precinct 4
#1

Ramon S. Basa
Precinct 5
#2

Daniel O. Quitugua
Precinct 5
#4

Edwin P. Aldan
Precinct 6 – Incumbent
#1

Please Vote Covenant

Thank you for your support.

www.ben-eloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

Letters to the Editor

A new voyage

Dear fellow voters: As I write this letter, we have a day before we cast our votes. As I close my eyes at night, I can hear my heart beat and I wonder why? After so many prayers and meditations, I finally realize that the future of the CNMI lies in the hands of the voters. And it scares me!

My dear brothers and sisters of this beautiful Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, open your eyes and your ears. Look at all these people talking, complaining, pointing fingers and whining. They are all lawmakers seeking higher office. What have they done while in the Legislature for the past 10 years? What bills have they introduced to greatly impact our livelihood? What promises have they delivered while they were in the Legislature?

Are you all aware that, as a legislator, you are the voice of the people and what you deliver on the floor is heard by the governor? Are you aware that if what you deliver is sensible and credible, the governor will pass and make it a law for the people. Now look at the bills and the discussions that our legislators have been doing for the past four years. All they did was complain, complain, complain, but when you complain about a problem, you should have a solution. They did not have one! Their only solution was to blame the governor or maybe the President if they could.

I just graduated from high school but I have common sense. So let me share my opinion. The Honorable Benigno Repeki Fitial has held up his head and stood high for all of us. His strengths are his humility and intelligence. Unlike the others, I have never heard him blame anyone for the problems we face today. What he did was recognize the problem and try to find a solution to the problem.

We all need to understand that the whole world is experiencing the economic pressure we feel today. We, the people of the CNMI are just so fortunate that we have not been tragically hit by recession and unemployment. And with our financial dilemma, our governor has chosen another strong-minded individual to be on his side. Lt. Gov. Eloy Songao Inos is the best person to work hand in hand with our governor, not only to straighten up our government but also to maintain and stabilize its activity.

They have steered our boat and it did not sink. Although holes were punctured on the boat, they found the ways and means to stop the leak and patch those holes. Yesterday, I sailed with them and we sailed through the rough seas and they never allowed the boat to sink. Today I sail with them. Tomorrow, I am scheduling my next voyage with them for another four years. For our future and the future of the CNMI, hop on the ship of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos. It rocks but it will never sink.

Penelope S. Seman
As Lito, Saipan

FOREMOST
caps OFF to WIN, Saipan!
GIVEAWAY
win cool gadgets or a FREE Foremost beverage INSTANTLY!
Look for INSTANT WIN red bottle caps on select bottled Foremost beverages for a chance to win an iPod Shuffle, a video game console or a FREE Foremost 20 oz. beverage!!
INSTANT WIN! VIDEO GAME CONSOLE!
INSTANT WIN! iPOD SHUFFLE!
GRAND PRIZE! iCONNECT i465 Clutch Drawing on December 26, 2009.
start twisting away!
PLUS!
Bring 5 "Please Try Again" caps to any iCONNECT location to:
1.) Redeem One of 5 Instant Prizes.
2.) Enter in the Weekly Drawing for an iCONNECT SPEED PACK!
3.) Enter in the Final Drawing for an i465 Clutch phone to be drawn on December 26.
THAT'S 3 CHANCES TO WIN!!
iCONNECT
Packed with local pride.
Prizes not exactly as shown. See website for details. Promotion ends December 26, 2009.
fastBREAK!
Iced Cappuccino
350 mL (11.8 Fl. OZ)

NO TO

From Page 11

11. If each document that could conceivably be asked for under OGA were to be "scrubbed" of any personal, security sensitive or confidential information, then a "scrubbed" version of every document ever produced would have to be prepared at taxpayers' expense.

12. If caught in violation of the OGA, House members have constitutionally protected salaries so you cannot dock their pay or fine them (which would be considered docking). To protect their independence, they are *legislatively immune.* Just how would you propose dealing with "offenders" (which after about three days would be every single legislator as none could meet all the stringent public notice requirements).

13. Public and private legal bills will be quadrupled as doubt will be/can be cast on every law ever enacted. You could double or triple the size of the current Judicial Branch and still not keep up, or be able to do any actual productive work such as hold a regular trials calendar.

14. In session, any floor amendments to any bill would have to be advertised before they could even be discussed. Every *person who wants to comment* would have to have their name registered and published beforehand. Don't just go and expect to speak.

15. Special meetings would require 24-hour notice to *every* newspaper and radio station. Try defining that and try paying for all the notices, pages and pages of print each day, and still there would be questions as to whether it had been done correctly or not. Would ads in the PDN or *Pacific Times* be required? Why not?

Do you still support this initiative? Its proposers have not thought of the consequences of an action that will cost tens of millions and basically shut down government. These are some of the same people that call for a part-time legislature. With all these additional bureaucratic hoops to jump through, the Legislature would have to hire legions of new employees, not fewer. They would have to work far longer, not shorter sessions.

I suggest that you do additional research on your own and that you vote against this version of the OGA public initiative. If you vote for it because of a misguided notion that it will make government more open and responsive, you will be doing great harm and will be an agent in costing our government huge sums of money, much of which will end up in the pockets of private legal specialists. One staffer says the name of this initiative should be changed to the Lawyer's Full Employment Initiative of 2009 as it will vastly increase litigation.

What you need to do now is *read the OGA* as it currently exists and as it will be implemented should the initiative pass. Read it carefully and imagine it applying not to an executive division but to a lawmaking body. You will find that it poses an unworkable burden on this or any other legislature.

Perhaps the most important question to ask is just what would you have access to if this damaging initiative passes that you do not have access to right now, today under current law? Answer: nothing but the personal correspondence files of individual legislators. "Dear Mr. Congressman, thank you for designating the third week in August as CNMI left handed citizens week. We lefties need love too." The sort of correspondence found in those files would make for some pretty boring reading. If there was something in there that was improper, do you honestly think it would still be there if a legislative OGA was passed? Signing a petition to feel good about improving your government is not a bad thing; what is bad is enacting through public initiative an act that does major harm to the working of a free government and produces no discernable benefit in return.

This concept could work if the current OGA had *major* revisions made before enacting it. It would require a complete rewrite as you will see when you read it. The problem is the initiative makes no provision for any changes to be made at all. The initiative wants us to just throw it at the wall and hope it works. Well, it won't work. So please do not aid and abet this ill-advised and unworkable impediment to a free government. Please, withdraw your support before it is too late. I urge you to vote "no" on this important issue.

Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres
16th Legislature
Capital Hill, Saipan

GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NOVEMBER 7, 2009

A B C **PRECINCT NO. 3**

INSTRUCTIONS
1. VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE IN EACH RACE BY DARKENING THE OVAL (●) PROVIDED TO THE LEFT OF THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE.
2. VOTE FOR NO MORE CANDIDATES THAN THERE ARE OFFICES TO BE FILLED. IF YOU VOTE FOR MORE CANDIDATES THAN THERE ARE OFFICES TO BE FILLED, YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED FOR THAT RACE.

GOVERNOR/LT.GOVERNOR
Vote for No More than One (1)

- ● **1 HOFSCHNEIDER, Heinz Sablan PALACIOS, Arnold Indalecio (Republican)**
- ○ 2. FITIAL, Benigno Repeki INOS, Eloy Songao (Covenant)
- ○ 3 DELEON GUERRERO, Ramon Santos BORJA, David Muna (Independent)
- ○ 4 GUERRERO, Juan Pan Tenorio CAMACHO, Joseph James Norita (Independent)

MAYOR OF SAIPAN
Vote for No More than One (1)

- ○ 1 TENORIO, Lino Sablan (Independent)
- ○ 2 SANCHEZ, Jose Deleon Guerrero (Independent)
- ● **3 FLORES, Donald Glenn (Republican)**
- ○ 4 VILLAGOMEZ, Angelo (Democrat)
- ○ 5 TAMAN, Candido Babauta (Independent)
- ○ 6 CAMACHO, Antonio Muna (Independent)
- ○ 7 DEMAPAN, Juan Sablan (Independent)
- ○ 8 TUDELA, Marian Deleon Guerrero (Covenant)
- ○ 9 BENAVENTE, Roman Cepeda (Independent)

SENATE
Vote for No More than Two (2)

- ○ 1 QUITUGUA, Justo Songao (Democrat)
- ○ 2 CAMACHO, Paul William DI. Guerrero (Independent)
- ○ 3 TEREGEYO, Ana Sablan (Covenant)
- ○ 4 KAIPAT, Jacinta Matagolai (Covenant)
- ○ 5 SABLAN, Christina Marie Elise (Independent)
- ● **6 TORRES, Ralph Anthony Deleon Guerrero (Republican)**
- ○ 7 CRUZ, Gregorio Sanchez (Independent)
- ● **8 REYES, Pete Pangelinan (Republican)**

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Vote for No More than Two (2)

- ○ 1 CAMACHO, Ramon Jose Blas
- ○ 2 DIAZ, Eric Demapan

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Vote for No More than One (1)

- ○ 1 GUERRERO, Herman Tenorio

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Vote for No More than Six (6)

- ○ 1 TORRES, Stanley Estanislao Tudela McGinnis (Independent)
- ○ 2 ELAMETO, Jesus Mareham (Covenant)
- ● **3 SALAS, Ramon Sablan (Republican)**
- ○ 4 OGUMORO, Felicidad Taman (Covenant)
- ● **5 YUMUL, Ray Naraja (Republican)**
- ● **6 CASTRO, Jesus Manibusan (Republican)**
- ○ 7 VILLAGOMEZ, Edmund Joseph Sablan (Covenant)
- ● **8 AQUINO, Daniel Jr. Iwashita (Republican)**
- ○ 9 CHONG-DELA CRUZ, Rita Camacho (Independent)
- ○ 10 CAMACHO, Miguel Atalig (Independent)
- ● **11 TEBUTEB, Ramon Angailen (Republican)**
- ○ 12 MARATITA, David Reyes (Covenant)
- ○ 2 ELAMETO, Jesus Mareham (Covenant)
- ● **14 DELA CRUZ, Francisco Santos (Republican)**

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GCA holds weeklong Missions Convention

Grace Christian Students participate in a Parade of Nations on Oct. 26, with students from kindergarten to 12th grade dressed in various cultural costumes parading around the campus.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From Oct. 26 through Nov. 1, the Grace Christian Academy/Assembly held its annual Missions' Convention.

This year's theme was "Every Way (Reaching people with the Good News of Jesus in every way possible.)"

The week's events included a Parade of Nations on Oct. 26, with students from kindergarten to 12th grade dressed in various cultural costumes parading around the campus. There was also an assembly during which a contest was held for best culturally dressed students.

The following days, Oct. 27 - 30, the school had chapel services and nightly services with guest speakers Pastor Bob and Evelyn Anden from the Philippines. They delivered challenging messages throughout the week.

On Oct. 28, Grace Christian had a casual day for a cause. Students paid $1 to wear casual clothes for the day. The proceeds went to a school in the Philippines that was hit by the recent typhoon and to help with shipping costs for Operation Christmas Child.

On Oct. 30, GCA classes had a potluck feast of various cultural foods. There was also a judging of the best decorated classroom per department. The winners were 1st grade, 5th grade, 8th grade, and 9th grade.

It was a great week of learning about various cultures around the world and praying for the needs of those nations as well. Places represented were Brazil, Japan, India, China, Italy, Hawaiian Islands, Mexico, Philippines, France, England, Australia, Egypt, and the CNMI.

Students also began packing shoeboxes for a project called Operation Christmas child. The shoeboxes will be sent to children around the world that otherwise would not receive gifts this Christmas.

JOE

Deleon Guerrero Sanchez

for Mayor (Saipan)

#2

Kon respetu para todos manginiflie-mami na residentten Saipan, man atungo yan familia. Hami ni famaguon I defunto yan defunta as Juan Aguon Sanchez (masmatungo-na kumo as Juan Catalino) yan Concepcion Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero (mas matungo-na kumo as Chong Apa), en yayama i attension miyo ya' enfafaisen hamyo ni botu konfiansa para I chelun-mami as JOE DELEON GUERRERO SANCHEZ, mas matungo'na as JOE-BERNIE, asaguan Bernie Pangelinan Pinaula (familian Agaga yan Apu), ni malalagu para I puesto Atkatde, Munisipalidat Saipan, guine gi mamaila na eleksion, Nobrenbre 7, 2009.

Ginen hami todos ni mane'lo, i asaguan-mami, i famaguon-mami yan asaguan niha, un senseru na agradesimento yan dangkulo na si yu'us ma'ase nuisuppottasion yan ayudon miyo.

Hafa adai to all family, friends, and fellow residents of Saipan. We, the family of the late Juan Aguon Sanchez (Juan Catalino) and Concepcion Deleon Guerrero Sanchez (Chong Apa), humbly ask for your support for our brother JOE DLG. SANCHEZ, Mayoral Candidate for the island of Saipan.

Our families would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and thanks for all of your support.

Paid for by the family of Joe Dlg. Sanchez

NMC partners with UH, UVI, and UOG to launch Grazing Academy

In its ongoing efforts to educate the community about innovative agricultural management practices, the Northern Marianas College has partnered with other colleges to launch the Marianas Grazing Academy, which is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

A project organized through a collaborative effort between the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam, the Academy also seeks to enhance the production of high quality meat products, which can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

"We're really excited to be collaborating with the universities from Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and Guam to make more training and professional development opportunities available for our farmers and ranchers," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The Academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing special local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

The first segment of the Marianas Grazing Academy will involve a series of workshops that will be held on Rota in Nov. 11, 12, and 13, and on Tinian on Nov. 17, 18, and 19. These initial workshops will include training on pasture and livestock management issues, including forage production, grazing management planning, weed control, forage selection, animal health and treatment practices, meat quality and marketing, and mobile slaughter facilities.

"The team that has been deployed for this project has a vast network of livestock, meat processing, and marketing specialists as resource people which is sure to make for a high quality program" said Dr. Allan Sabaldica, NMC-CREES livestock specialist and local contact for the project. "Although this project period is limited to three years, we hope that this is only the beginning of a lasting working relationship that may lead into other projects with a similar focus of assisting producers in reaching their production and economic goals."

The Marianas Grazing Academy organizing team is made up of livestock, pasture, and soil specialists that include Dr. Mark S. Thorne (UH-Principal Investigator), Dr. Jonathan L. Deenik (UH), Dr. Robert W. Godfrey (UVI), Glen K. Fukumoto (UH), John S. Powley (UH), Matthew Stevenson (UH), Dr. Allan Sabaldica (NMC), Dr. Manny Duguies (UoG), and Lawerence J. Duponcheel (NMC).

"This project will benefit local producers throughout the Marianas Islands; we fully support this project and encourage all ranchers or interested parties to participate in the Grazing Academy training sessions," said Joe Dela Cruz, president of the newly formed Tinian Cattlemen's Association. "In this way, local ranchers can maximize their production while increasing profits per each head of cattle."

To register for the workshops, contact Alejandro Badilles on Rota (532-9513) or Dr. Allen Sabaldica on Tinian (433-2576).

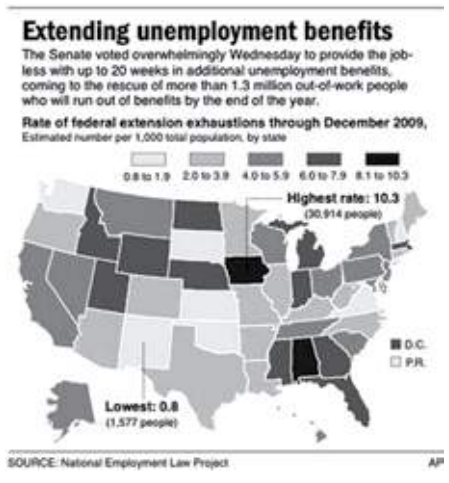
The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CREES Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers. ***(NMC)***

Business

Senate acts to extend aid for jobless, homebuyers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Recognizing that a weak economy still needs a government boost, the Senate voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to provide the jobless with up to 20 weeks in additional unemployment benefits and expand a first-time homebuyer tax credit to include a far larger pool of people entering the dormant housing market.

The $24 billion bill, passed 98-0, also provides tax relief for struggling businesses. It comes to the rescue of more than 1 million out-of-work people who will run out of benefits by the end of the year. Everyone will receive 14 weeks of additional benefits, while those in states with unemployment rates of 8.5 percent and above get six weeks on top of that.


Extending unemployment benefits
The Senate voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to provide the jobless with up to 20 weeks in additional unemployment benefits, coming to the rescue of more than 1.3 million out-of-work people who will run out of benefits by the end of the year.
Rate of federal extension exhaustions through December 2009,
Estimated number per 1,000 total population, by state
0.8 to 1.9
2.0 to 3.9
4.0 to 5.9
6.0 to 7.9
8.1 to 10.3
Highest rate: 10.3
(30,914 people)
D.C.
P.R.
Lowest: 0.8
(1,577 people)
SOURCE: National Employment Law Project
AP

With enactment, the jobless in the hardest-hit states could receive up to 99 weeks of benefits, which average about $300 a week. That would well exceed the previous record of 65 weeks during the 1970s.

The $8,000 tax credit for first-time homebuyers, enacted as part of the stimulus package last February and set to expire this month, would be extended and expanded to include a $6,500 credit for people who have lived in their current residences at least five years.

Congress has no choice but to act when there are 15 million jobless chasing 3 million jobs and 7,000 people run out of benefits every day, said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont. Economists talk about the end of the recession, he said, but "for most Americans, it will still be some time before things start getting better."

October sales promise a bit of relief to stores

NEW YORK (AP)—October sales reports from major retailers ranging from Target Corp. to Macy's Inc. are expected to offer more evidence of a spending recovery when they're released Thursday.

That's helping to lift hopes for a slightly merrier holiday season and for the health of the overall economy.

The reports, based on sales at stores opened at least a year, are expected to show the second consecutive monthly gain after more than a year of declines. These figures are considered a key barometer of retailers' health.

Analysts will mine the reports to get more details on how shoppers are starting to treat themselves to little indulgences like new boots and are purchasing some merchandise at full price.

SpendingPulse, a service of MasterCard Advisors, reported Wednesday that jewelry (up 7.2 percent) and clothing (up 3.4 percent) showed signs of life in October compared with a year earlier, when spending was in a free fall. But those figures were well below the levels two years ago and only slightly better than 2005. SpendingPulse estimates sales in all payment forms including cash and checks.

Panasonic begins tender offer for Sanyo takeover

TOKYO (AP)—Panasonic Corp. said Thursday it has begun a tender offer to take over smaller rival Sanyo Electric Co. for an estimated 402 billion yen ($4.4 billion), moving closer to create one of the world's biggest electronics makers.

Panasonic, the world's biggest plasma TV maker, is expected to purchase more than 50 percent of Sanyo shares, hoping to take advantage of the smaller rival's green businesses in solar panels and rechargeable batteries.

Panasonic spokesman Akira Kadota said the tender offer is planned for Nov. 5 through Dec. 7 at the price of 131 yen ($1.4) per share.

Sanyo's three major shareholders—Goldman Sachs, Daiwa Securities SMBC and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.—have agreed to sell at least a combined 3.07 billion shares to Panasonic at that per-share price, which guarantees the Osaka-based company to take majority stake in Sanyo. The three shareholders together control about 70 percent of Sanyo's total outstanding shares.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM's Opel move raises anger, new uncertainty

BERLIN (AP)—General Motors Co.'s decision to scrap the sale of European subsidiary Opel raised new uncertainty Wednesday over the unit's future, astonishing politicians in Germany and Russia, and prompting workers to plan walkouts in protest. The GM board's unexpected decision to call off the sale to auto parts maker Magna International Inc. and Russian lender Sberbank was a startling end to months of haggling in which Chancellor Angela Merkel and other German leaders had strongly backed the deal. Now German workers worry GM will make even more cuts to return Opel to profit than Magna would have. Still, the decision won a cautious welcome from union officials in Britain and Poland, where workers had feared possible cutbacks in a Magna takeover.

Fed again pledges to hold rates at record-lows

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve pledged Wednesday to keep a key interest rate at a record low for an "extended period," signaling that the weak economy remains dependent on government help to grow. The Fed said economic activity has "continued to pick up" and that the housing market has strengthened—a key ingredient for a sustained recovery. But Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues warned that rising joblessness and tight credit for many people and companies could restrain the rebound in the months ahead.

Oil dips below $80 as US dollar strengthens

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dipped below $80 a barrel Thursday in Asia as the U.S. dollar strengthened. Benchmark crude for December delivery was down 60 cents to $79.80 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 80 cents to settle at $80.40 on Wednesday. Crude has traded near $80 a barrel for the last few weeks as investors watch a volatile dollar and mixed signs on the strength of the U.S. economy. Oil has jumped from $32 in December as traders have used crude and other commodities as a hedge against a weakening dollar and inflation.

VOTE/BOTA #2
SANCHEZ, JOE DLG.

Hafa Adai man ginifli'e'- mami na residenten Saipan, man attungo'yan familia siha. In e'eppok hamyo todos nui supottasion-miyu yan boton konfiansa para i asaguahu yan tatan-mami as Joe dlg Sanchez ni kumandidadatu para I pueston atkaddi munisipalidat Saipan guini gi mamaila na lieksion Novembre dia 7, 2009.

Ginen hami todos in ekstetende senseru na agradesimento yan si Yu'us ma'ase para hamyo todos pot i sakrifisio, supottasion yan ayudon-miyu siha.

Bernie, Jay, Annabelle, Jeffrey yan Jonathan

On November 7th, we ask our families, friends and acquaintances, and fellow residents of Saipan to vote Joe DLG Sanchez for Mayor. Thank you. God bless.

The family of Joe DLG. Sanchez

Nation

Sources: Dem's health bill to get AARP backing

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a coup for House Democrats, AARP will endorse sweeping health care overhaul legislation headed for a history-making floor vote, officials told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

An endorsement from the seniors' lobby was critical when then-President George W. Bush pushed the Medicare prescription drug benefit through a closely divided Congress in 2003. House Democratic leaders are hoping it will work the same political magic for them as they strive to deliver on President Barack Obama's signature issue.

An announcement from the 40-million member group is expected Thursday, said officials with knowledge of the group's decision. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the endorsement is not official yet.

Backing the 10-year, $1.2 trillion House bill is a tricky move for AARP. Many retirees are concerned about cuts in Medicare payments to medical providers, which will be used to finance an expansion of health insurance coverage to millions of working families who now lack it. Also, AARP says its membership is about evenly divided among Democrats, Republicans and independents, meaning its endorsement in today's highly politicized atmosphere could anger many members.

Floor votes on the House bill could come as early as this weekend. Obama planned to visit the Capitol on Friday, according to congressional officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the meetings have not been announced.

Meanwhile, the Congressional Budget Office released an analysis of the House GOP bill that found it would reduce the number of uninsured by just 3 million in 2019. By comparison, the more expansive Democratic bill would gain coverage for 36 million.

Judge puts restraining order on Ill. abortion law

CHICAGO (AP)—Just hours after a state board voted Wednesday to allow the enforcement of a long-debated Illinois law requiring a teenage girl's parents be notified before she has an abortion, a judge issued a temporary restraining order putting the measure back on hold.

The order will remain in effect until the judge can hear arguments on the issue. Cook County Judge Daniel Riley said he felt the American Civil Liberties Union, which sought the order, "demonstrated the distinct possibility of irreparable harm."

Illinois' law was passed in 1995, but never enforced because of various court actions. Thirty-five other states have similar laws, which meant some teens seeking abortions came to Illinois for them.

"This is a dumping ground for other states," said Joseph Scheidler, national director of the Pro-Life Action League. "You go look at the license plates at the abortion clinics."

Allowing the law to take effect raised the possibility that "young women in this state would be abused, they would be kicked out of their homes," Lorie Chaiten, head of the Illinois ACLU's reproductive rights project, said after the court hearing.

Assistant Illinois attorney general Thomas Ioppolo argued against the restraining order.

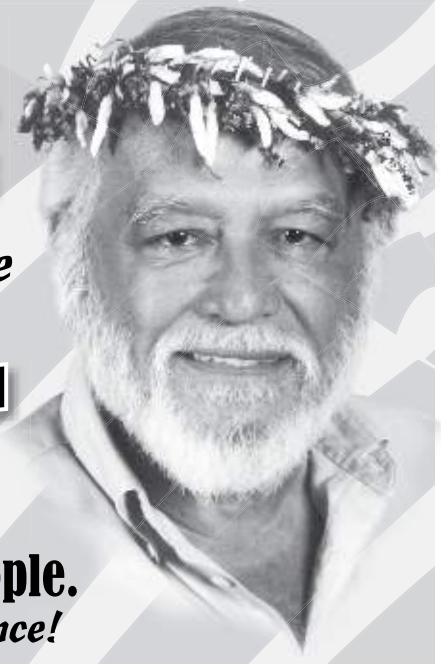
"Why does Illinois have to have a law that doesn't take the parents into account?" Ioppolo said. "The idea of having parental notification serves legitimate interests."

Earlier Wednesday, the state's Medical Disciplinary Board had voted not to extend a 90-day grace period on the law that had been put in place in August. Susan Hofer, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, said that vote meant the law had gone into effect. After Riley's ruling, though, Hofer said the department is barred from enforcing it.

Thomas Brejcha, president of the Chicago-based Thomas More Society Pro-Life Law Center, called Illinois is "an island of abortion in the Midwest."

The law requires doctors to notify the parents or guardians of girls 17 or younger 48 hours before the teens get abortions. It requires no notice in a medical emergency or in cases of sexual abuse, and a provision allows girls to bypass parental notification by going to a judge.

1 TORRES,
Stanley Tudela Mcginnis
For Representative
PRECINCT 3
■ Yes to Schools, Safety and Precinct 3 Resources
Always on watch for the people.
Thank you for your vote of confidence!



FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PRECINCT 1
SABLAN
Antonio Pangelinan
#12 ON THE BALLOT
Thank you for your support.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomway, Salamat Po.
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Antonio P. Sablan

Nightmare in Cleveland block

CLEVELAND (AP)—The run-down Cleveland neighborhood where 50-year-old Anthony Sowell quietly carved out an existence is the type of place where women can disappear almost in plain sight.

Where crack users sneak into vacant houses to do drugs, have sex, then steal copper pipes and wiring to make a few bucks.

Where no one asks a lot of questions, even about the smell of rotting meat that came when the wind blew a certain way. Some likened it to the smell of death, and it seemed to follow Sowell around.

No one is sure how long Sowell, a registered sex offender who would offer free barbecue to the neighbors, had been living in his three-story house with corpses lying around, many of them black women who had been strangled. Police have now recovered 11 bodies from the home on Imperial Avenue, in the living room, crawl spaces and backyard graves. There was even a skull in the basement.

But if Sowell's street is seedy, it's far from abandoned. Occupied homes are sandwiched between vacant, boarded-up houses and scattered small businesses with a steady stream of customers.

"We're not talking about some desolate area, some abandoned barn," said Councilman Zach Reed, whose mother lives a block away. "How did somebody get away with this in a residential neighborhood?"

AP

Anthony Sowell, right, stands behind public defender Kathleen DeMetz during his court appearance Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, in Cleveland.

Even residents seemed unfazed by the disappearances: They say many of the women were known prostitutes or drug users. But relatives of presumed victims charge that police ignored their missing person reports.

"They told us to go home, and as soon as the drugs are gone, she'll show up," said Markiesha Carmichael-Jacobs, whose 53-year-old mother Tonia, a drug addict, vanished Nov. 10, 2008. Police identified her Wednesday as one of the victims, saying her body was found buried in the backyard with marks indicating strangulation.

ACROSS THE NATION

Murdered nun like 'mom' to parishioner

NAVAJO, N.M. (AP)—Sister Marguerite Bartz had worried just weeks ago about crime in the community after someone broke into the St. Berard Mission Church and stole bingo money. Then she herself fell victim to a horrible crime. The beloved nun was murdered in her residence on church property, a killing that has rattled this impoverished town on the Navajo Indian Reservation and left parishioners in mourning. "She was like a mom to me," said resident Arlene Deche. "It was so sad to hear what happened to her." When Bartz, 64, failed to show up as scheduled for Sunday Mass in the neighboring community of Sawmill, a person who hasn't been identified was sent to check on her welfare.

Victims, relatives prepare for sniper execution

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—For those wounded by the D.C. snipers and for the relatives of those killed, the emotions leading up to the execution of the mastermind behind the 2002 attacks vary as widely as those who found themselves in the cross hairs. Forty-eight-year-old John Allen Muhammad is set to die by injection in a Virginia prison Nov. 10, seven years after he and his teenage accomplice terrorized the area in and around the nation's capital for three weeks. Some family members can't wait to see Muhammad take his final breath. Others plan to make the trip to Virginia but never step foot on prison grounds. And there are those who plan to spend the night at home with their families, satisfied that Muhammad is paying for what he's done.

2 NY jurors gone and Gotti's mother is not happy

NEW YORK (AP)—John "Junior" Gotti's mother unleashed a profanity-laced tirade Wednesday after a judge dismissed two anonymous jurors at her son's racketeering trial, saying he was being cheated of a fair trial as his father had been. "They're railroading you!" Victoria Gotti shouted as she stood in the spectator section several feet behind her son. "They're doing to you what they did to your father." John Gotti Sr. was convicted of racketeering in 1991 after several previous trials had ended in deadlocked juries. He died in prison in 2002. Mrs. Gotti's outburst came as the two-month trial nears its end and after several notes from jurors over a period of weeks indicated there were personality issues bothering some of them.

Source: Ex-NYC top cop Kerik plans guilty plea

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Bernard Kerik, a former New York City police commissioner and one-time nominee for Homeland Security secretary, will enter a guilty plea to resolve three pending criminal trials, a person familiar with the case said Wednesday.

Kerik plans to enter the plea in a federal courtroom on Thursday in a deal that could bring him a recommended prison term of around 2 1/2 years, the person told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The person was not authorized to discuss the plea negotiations publicly.

Kerik, who won wide praise for his steadiness running the NYPD at the time of the 9/11 attacks, technically would have faced up to 140 years in prison if convicted of all the charges pending against him in White Plains and Washington. Federal sentencing guidelines, however, likely would have led to a shorter term.

Kerik originally pleaded not guilty.

He pledged to fight the charges when he was indicted two years ago. He appeared steely and stoic through most of the long pretrial process until Oct. 20, when he was suddenly jailed for sharing secret pretrial information.

Soon after going behind bars, Kerik spent 10 days in the jail's psychiatric unit. At a pretrial session Oct. 26, he slumped forward in his chair and hung his head at the defense table.

"Please vote for my dad, Ralph DLG Torres He's #6 on the ballot, but #1 in my heart."

Asia

UN relocating about 600 staff after Afghan attack

KABUL (AP)—The United Nations said Thursday that it is temporarily relocating more than half its staff in Afghanistan following last week's deadly Taliban attack against U.N. workers—the most direct targeting of its employees during decades of work in the country.

The U.N. mission is still reeling from the pre-dawn assault on a guesthouse in the capital that left five U.N. staffers dead.

Though the U.N. insists it remains committed to Afghanistan, its actions show how much security has degraded in the country and raise questions about the future of its work if attacks continue.

The relocations follow a U.N. decision on Monday to suspend much of its work in the volatile northwest of neighboring Pakistan because of increasingly targeted attacks.

In Afghanistan, some 600 nonessential staffers will be moved for three to four weeks to more secure locations in and outside of Afghanistan while the body works to find safer permanent housing, spokesman Aleem Siddique said.

The majority of the U.N.'s 1,100 international staff in Afghanistan live in the capital, spread out in more than 90 guesthouses.

The plan is to consolidate those living arrangements so staff can be better protected, Siddique said. He stressed this was not a pullout or a scale-down in operations. About 80 percent of the U.N.'s staff in Afghanistan are Afghan citizens.

"We've been here for over half a century and we're not about to go any time soon," Siddique said.

Still, much U.N. work in Afghanistan has been put on hold since the attack and employees have been given the option to take leave while officials consider how to better protect employees.

In the Oct. 28 attack, gunmen wearing suicide vests stormed a private guesthouse where dozens of U.N. staffers lived, killing five U.N. workers and three Afghans.

Typhoon damage pushes RP inflation higher

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Inflation in the Philippines rose to 1.6 percent last month as damage to agriculture from four successive typhoons boosted prices, authorities said Thursday.

The rate marked an increase from 0.7 percent in September and from a two-decade low of 0.1 percent in August, the National Statistics Office said.

"As expected, the uptick was primarily due to supply pressures in agricultural products brought about by the recent typhoons," said central bank Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

The spike was expected to be temporary "with the underlying near-term trend remaining manageable," he added.

Back-to-back typhoons since Sept. 26 triggered massive flooding and inundated large tracts of rice fields in the northern Philippines, killing nearly 1,000 people and causing more than half a billion dollars in damage.

Tetangco earlier projected 2009 inflation to average between 3 percent and 3.4 percent in 2010, both within the central bank's target.

Officials: Alleged US missiles kill 2 in Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected U.S. missiles killed two alleged militants early Thursday in a northwest Pakistan tribal region, intelligence officials said, while Pakistani soldiers battled Taliban fighters in a neighboring stretch along the Afghan border.

The attack indicated the U.S. will not sideline a favorite battle tactic against Islamist extremists despite Pakistani concerns that the missile strikes will anger insurgents who have agreed to stay neutral as the army wages an offensive against the Pakistani Taliban in South Waziristan.

The drone-fired missiles hit a house in Naurak village in the North Waziristan tribal area overnight, the two officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media on the record.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam storm death toll rises to 99

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—The death toll from Tropical Storm Mirinae rose to 99 in central Vietnam on Thursday and authorities estimated damage from the storm at $55 million. In the hardest-hit province Phu Yen, three districts that are home to 300,000 people remained inundated, said Nguyen Ba Loc, deputy chairman of the provincial People's Committee. Some areas of the province suffered their most severe flooding ever and many families lost their homes, he said. Some 24,000 people continued to take shelter at government buildings. Military helicopters continued to drop instant noodles and water to victims in the isolated areas, he said, and soldiers in speed boats also contributed to the relief efforts.

US will not lift Myanmar sanctions

BANGKOK (AP)—A senior US diplomat says Washington will not lift its sanctions on Myanmar unless its ruling generals make concrete progress toward democratic reform. U.S. Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs Scot Marciel spoke Thursday after he and another State Department official completed the highest-ranking visit to Myanmar in 14 years, putting into motion the Obama administration's new policy of "pragmatic engagement" with the isolated country. He made it clear that the stick would remain along with the new carrot, and that Washington would be closely watching the junta's next moves.

8 children drown in Indian boat accident

NEW DELHI (AP)—At least eight children drowned Wednesday when a boat carrying at least 35 students capsized in southern India, police said. Rescue workers were searching for the other children and their fate was not immediately known, said Vasudev, a local police official who uses only one name. The cause of the accident was not known, he said. The accident occurred on the Chaliyar river in the Malappuram district of Kerala state, more than 1,300 miles (2,100 kilometers) south of New Delhi. Kerala is a popular tourist destination for both Indians and foreigners.

ATALIG, Eric Benavente
#4

This Saturday November 7, 2009, the people of the CNMI will decide who will best lead them for the next 4 years and the residents of Precinct II will choose who will best to represent them for the next 2 years.

We have witnessed a once beautiful community become run down. We need to take better care of the villages we call home. I ask the people of Precinct II for your support because I share a common goal with you, I want to make our precinct a better place to live. With your support I will have the opportunity to not only listen to you but take a proactive role in seeing that your needs are met.

I have a willingness to work hard for you and if given the chance, I will actively participate in helping to solve these problems we face everyday, please remember me this Saturday and vote Eric B. Atalig #4 on the ballot.

Thank you for your support.

PLEASE VOTE REPUBLICAN

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Eric B. Atalig

World

Ousted Honduran leader asks Clinton stand on coup

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Ousted President Manuel Zelaya is asking the Obama administration why, after pressing for his reinstatement, it now says it will recognize upcoming Honduran elections even if he isn't returned to power first.

In a letter sent to the U.S. State Department on Wednesday, Zelaya asked Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton "to clarify to the Honduran people if the position condemning the coup d'etat has been changed or modified."

His request came after Washington's top envoy to Latin America, Thomas Shannon, told CNN en Espanol that Washington will recognize the Nov. 29 elections even if the Honduran Congress decides against returning Zelaya to power.

A U.S.-brokered deal reached last week leaves Zelaya's reinstatement in the hands of Congress, but sets no deadline as to when lawmakers must decide. Delays in the expected vote have generated fears in the Zelaya camp.

"Both leaders took a risk and put their trust in Congress, but at the end of the day the accord requires that both leaders accept its decision," Shannon said.

The U.S. has repeatedly pressed for Zelaya's reinstatement. President Barack Obama was explicit in a speech this summer: "America supports now the restoration of the democratically elected President of Honduras."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said Wednesday that the United States considers what happened in Honduras a coup and that Zelaya should be reinstated, but he said the focus now should be on implementing last week's deal between the ousted president's representatives and the interim government of Roberto Micheletti.

"We've made our position on President Zelaya and his restitution clear. We believe he should be restored to power," Kelly said. "Our focus now is on implementing this process and creating an environment wherein Hondurans themselves can address the issue of restitution and resolve for themselves this Honduran problem."

The deal left reinstatement in the hands of Congress, but hours after shaking hands, Zelaya and others indicated a behind-the-scenes arrangement had been made with Congress to reinstate him.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran opposition protesters return to streets

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The contrasts were vivid: Pro-government supporters chanted "Death to America" and stomped on U.S. flags Wednesday while not far away, hundreds of opposition protesters denounced Iran's leaders and appealed to America's president to choose sides. "Obama, Obama, you are either with them, or with us," the anti-government protesters chanted in Farsi, in an amateur video clip widely circulated on the Internet. The new and startling appeal to President Barack Obama came as Iran's opposition protesters returned to the streets in large numbers for the first time in nearly two months. Authorities were ready with the same sweeping measures they used to quell fierce election-fraud protests this summer and early fall: Sending paramilitary units to key locations to fire tear gas and beat people with batons.

IRA veterans aid NIreland dissidents, report says

DUBLIN (AP)—Irish Republican Army dissidents are posing their greatest security threat in Northern Ireland since the province's peace accord 11 years ago—and are receiving help from a handful of IRA veterans in plotting gun and bomb attacks, an expert panel found Wednesday. The Independent Monitoring Commission, which reports regularly on the underground activities of Northern Ireland's myriad paramilitary groups, said dissidents backed by a "small number" of mainstream IRA members are responsible for a surge in violence since March. These include shooting to death two British soldiers and a policeman; several failed attempts to kill security-force members with bombs in vehicles and on roadsides; and shooting 20 people non-fatally in a campaign to deter civilians—particularly within the IRA's Catholic power bases—from cooperating with the security forces.

Tropical Storm Ida batters Nicaraguan island

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Tropical Storm Ida uprooted trees, knocked down power lines and forced the evacuation of 300 people on Nicaragua's Corn Island after forming Wednesday and quickly gaining strength in the southwestern Caribbean. The storm was threatening to become a hurricane before making landfall in Nicaragua early Thursday morning. Heavy rains and winds already pounded the popular resort of Corn Island, knocking down trees, electrical lines and telephone poles. Much of the island had lost and phone service, said Lt. Col. Reinaldo Carrion, the civil defense chief in Bluefields, the city nearest to the island.

Israel: Commandos seize huge Iranian arms shipment

JERUSALEM (AP)—Open crates from a cargo ship seized Wednesday by Israel revealed dark green missiles inside. Containers from the vessel bore writing in English that said "I.R. Iranian Shipping Lines Group."

Israel alleged that the shipment of hundreds of tons of rockets, missiles, mortars, grenades and anti-tank weapons—the largest it ever seized—was headed for Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon Israel stopped the ship, named the Francop, off the coast of Cyprus and towed it to the port of Ashdod. It carried orange, red, white and blue containers piled three deep on its deck.

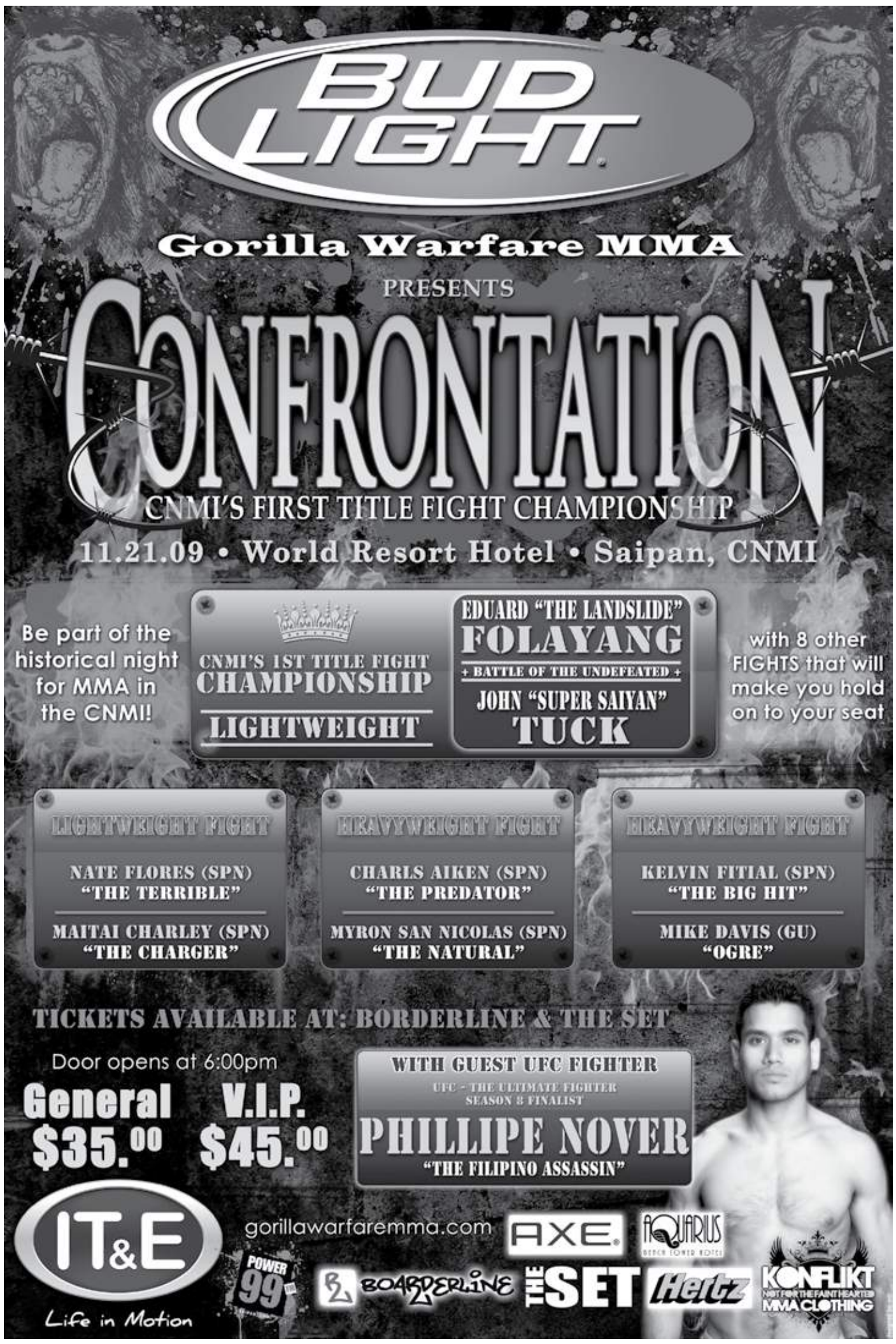
Rows of crates from the vessel were displayed on the dock, and inside were rockets, hand grenades, mortars and ammunition. At least 3,000 missiles were on board, the Israeli military said.

The seizure spotlighted the dangerous tensions between Israel and Iran. Israel considers Iran a strategic threat because of its nuclear program and long-range missile development, dismissing Iranian denials that it is building nuclear weapons.

Among the weaponry displayed were Katyusha rockets. One of the long skinny missiles sat atop a pile of storage boxes the military had labeled in Hebrew "rocket 122 mm." The 122 mm Katyusha was the main weapon used against Israel by Hezbollah in a monthlong war in 2006. During that war, about 1,200 people were killed in Lebanon, most of them civilians, and about 160 people were killed in Israel.

Some of the weapons were hidden in the Francop's containers behind stacked bags of polyethylene labeled in English "NPC National Petrochemical Company," and the flame logo used by both the company and the Iranian Petroleum Ministry.

Israel said the huge weapons shipment backed up its long-standing contention that Iran is supplying large quantities of arms to Hezbollah and Hamas.



Off the Wall

Man says image of Jesus appears on truck window

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (AP)—Jim Stevens said he's not particularly religious and is clueless about why an image resembling Jesus Christ keeps appearing on his pickup. Stevens, of Jonesborough, said nearly every morning, an image that looks to him like the face of Jesus Christ has appeared in the condensation on the driver's side window of his Isuzu truck. A Johnson City Press photo of the truck showed a facial image.

Stevens said when he first saw the image, he figured it would evaporate and not return. But it kept reappearing for two weeks now.

Stevens said folks at the grocery store he goes to were amazed to see the image.

He said he isn't going to wash the truck for a while.

AP
Jim Stevens stands next to his truck that has an image of Jesus on the window Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 i Jonesborough, Tenn.

PLEASE VOTE #1

RAYMOND ULLOA PALACIOS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (I)
PRECINCT #1

"NOT BASED ON PROMISES BUT PERFORMANCE"
"PEOPLE FIRST"
Thank you for your support.

Family
Wife: Josephine Ada Atalig Palacios
Children: Raymond Mafnas Palacios, Jake Atalig Palacios, Jude Atalig Palacios
Grandson: Javan Jake Tereyama Palacios

Parents
Father: Augustin Tudela Palacios "Gus" (DEC)
Mother: Esperanza Atalig Ulloa Palacios

Paternal
Granfather: Joaquin Muna Palacios (DEC)
Grandmother: Francisca Camacho Tudela Palacios (DEC)

Maternal
Grandfather: Felix Manglona Ulloa (DEC)
Grandmother: Maria Taimanao Atalig Ulloa (DEC)

Parents-in-law
Father-in-law: Jesus Laura Atalig
Mother-in-law: Emilia Lizama Ada Atalig (DEC)

Paid for by Committee to Elect Raymond Ulloa Palacios

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Man made up knife attack to miss work

EDGEWATER, Colo. (AP)—Police in the Denver suburb of Edgewater say a man stabbed himself, then said he was attacked by three men dressed in black who were either Hispanic or skinheads, in a ploy to miss work. Twenty-nine-year-old Aaron Siebers was arrested after police say he admitted making up the assault and said he was responsible for the knife wound to his leg and other superficial cuts on his body. He faces charges of false reporting and obstructing a police officer. Police say Siebers reported the attack Monday to the video store where he works. The reported assault drew five police agencies to the scene, along with K-9 units. Police spokesman Steve Davis says Siebers admitted the story was a lie after repeated questioning from detectives.

Police: Breathalyzer-costumed man accused of DUI

OXFORD, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man dressed as a Breathalyzer test for Halloween found himself blowing into one after police stopped him for allegedly driving the wrong way without headlights on a one-way street. Oxford police said they stopped 20-year-old James P. Miller on Halloween night and found beer in his front seat and in the trunk. Police said Miller blew 0.158 percent on a Breathalyzer test. The legal limit for driving is a blood-alcohol level of .08. Miller was cited on charges including operating a vehicle while intoxicated, underage possession of alcohol, having an open container and a fake ID, and a one-way street violation.

Pa. robbery victim IDs suspect from old yearbook

ERIE, Pa. (AP)—After being robbed of his jacket, cell phone, keys and $300, a Pennsylvania man was left with the odd feeling that his assailants looked familiar. Police say that's because they went to school together about 15 years ago. Erie police arrested 30-year-old Anthony Williams on Monday on charges of robbery, terroristic threats and simple assault. The other suspect has not been found. They say Williams was one of two men who accosted the victim outside a convenience store Oct. 17. Police say the victim recognized Williams because they both attended Central Career and Technical School in the mid-1990s. The victim brought old yearbooks to the police station and identified a newer picture of Williams from a photo lineup.

ELECT KAIPAT
SENATE #4

✔ Honesty
✔ Hard work
✔ Service
✔ Knowledge
✔ Get-it-done spirit

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jacinta M. Kaipat, Fernando M. Romolor, Treasurer

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BAR EXAMINATION

The Northern Mariana Islands Bar Examinations (MBE, MPT, and Essay) will be administered on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 and Thursday, February 25, 2010. Interested applicants may obtain the application form and necessary information from the Bar Administrator by calling telephone no. (670) 236-9800, visiting the judiciary's website at http://www.justice.gov.mp, or by writing to P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950.

All applications and required fees must be submitted to the Bar Administrator no later than December 23, 2009.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2009.

NORA V. BORJA
Bar Administrator

Science & Technology

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, *The Washington Post*

If the descriptions of products on Web sites and in stores always characterized their features accurately, shopping for complicated electronic gadgets would be a lot easier. To avoid surprises when you open up and power on some new device, hit the support section of its manufacturers' Web site and look up its manual—most of the time, you can find it either by searching for a product name or by browsing a list of current hardware. That document (expect it to be presented as a PDF file) may not make for the most exciting reading, but it should accurately describe what the gadget in question does and does not do, and its directions should also indicate how easy or difficult it is to operate. A well-written manual can also suggest that the company values usability enough to put some effort into putting together clear instructions—something too many firms neglect.

■■■

Photos taken with the cameras on most mobile phones have a deserved reputation for awfulness. But you can get better results from your cameraphone if you understand its limitations and try to work around them. First, remember its shutter lag--the time between you pressing a button to take a shot and it actually recording the image. Hold the camera steady for several seconds, not just when you press its shutter button. (This may mean giving up on some action shots.)

Second, use two hands to keep the phone steady—better yet, hold it sideways to reduce the odds of you moving the entire phone when you depress its shutter. Third, even if it has a flash, expect that to help less than a regular camera's flash. Fourth, take more photos than you plan on keeping, on the assumption that some of them still won't work despite your best efforts. (That's a good idea with any camera.)

Study: Internet use leads to more diverse networks

NEW YORK (AP)—A new study confirms what your 130 Facebook friends and scores of Twitter followers may have already told you: The Internet and mobile phones are not linked to social isolation.

Online activities such as e-mail, blogging and frequenting Internet hangouts can even lead to larger, more diverse social networks, according to the study released Wednesday by the Pew Internet and American Life Project. The study refutes research earlier in the decade suggesting that people's growing embrace of technology has come at the expense of close human connections.

"Social isolation has not changed that much since 1985," said Keith Hampton, the main author of the study professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication. This means that very few adults—6 percent of the population—say they have no one to talk to about important matters in their lives.

TECH BYTES

Apple's partner sells 5,000 iPhones in China debut

BEIJING (AP)—Apple Inc.'s local partner has sold 5,000 iPhones since the smart phone's formal weekend debut in China, a lackluster start after analysts warned the company might be setting prices too high. Unicom's first iPhones lack Wi-Fi due to Chinese regulatory restrictions and are priced at about 20 percent above unlocked models brought in from abroad and sold in Chinese street markets. Some customers said they paid the higher price to get Unicom support and to avoid the risk of getting counterfeit models.

A growing PayPal could soon overshadow parent eBay

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Most people know eBay Inc. for its online marketplace, where deals abound on everything from gadgets to antique furniture. But soon, eBay's biggest business will likely be PayPal, the online payments service that has been growing steadily even as the economy has stumbled. PayPal has thrived as more consumers and merchants use it to send money online. Its growth is expected to continue in spite of competition from Amazon.com Inc. and Google Inc., which have services that online retailers sometimes offer alongside PayPal. PayPal bills itself as a shopper's online wallet.

Microsoft lays off 800 more workers worldwide

REDMOND, Wash. (AP)—Microsoft Corp. says it is cutting 800 more jobs. That's in addition to the 5,000 layoffs it announced in January. Lou Gellos, a Microsoft spokesman, said Wednesday the cuts are being made in offices around the globe. He would not say what specific product groups or job types are affected. Gellos also says Microsoft had already let nearly all of the 5,000 go, in what was the company's first-ever widespread layoffs. Microsoft also said in January it would continue to hire in key areas such as Web search.

STOP THE RERUN
VOTE THE NEW GENERATION IN
VOTE FOR

Tina Sablan
#5 for Senator

Angelo Villagomez
#4 for Mayor

Jesse Torres
#7 for Congress

Paid for by Citizens for Change

MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

To my fellow citizens of the CNMI:

This year's election is about hope, hope for a brighter future for our islands and our people. The Heinz and Arnold team brings new hope and opportunity for progress.

Heinz is a person I have known for many years. I have had on many occasions discussed issues about life in our islands, critical issues facing our people, the future of our children and our families. I have always been impressed by Heinz's observations, insights, and enthusiasm for intellectual conversations on a range of topics from economics, health, law and even fishing. I have no doubt that Heinz will bring to the office of Governor a new sense of governance based on respect for the law and respect for our people.

Heinz is a person of tremendous integrity and deep convictions. He is a person who honors his word. He is the one we can put our faith and trust in- to restore our values, economic prosperity, improved health care for our citizens, and to support quality education for our children.

Without any hesitation, I ask each and everyone, families and friends, for your support this Saturday, November 7, 2009.

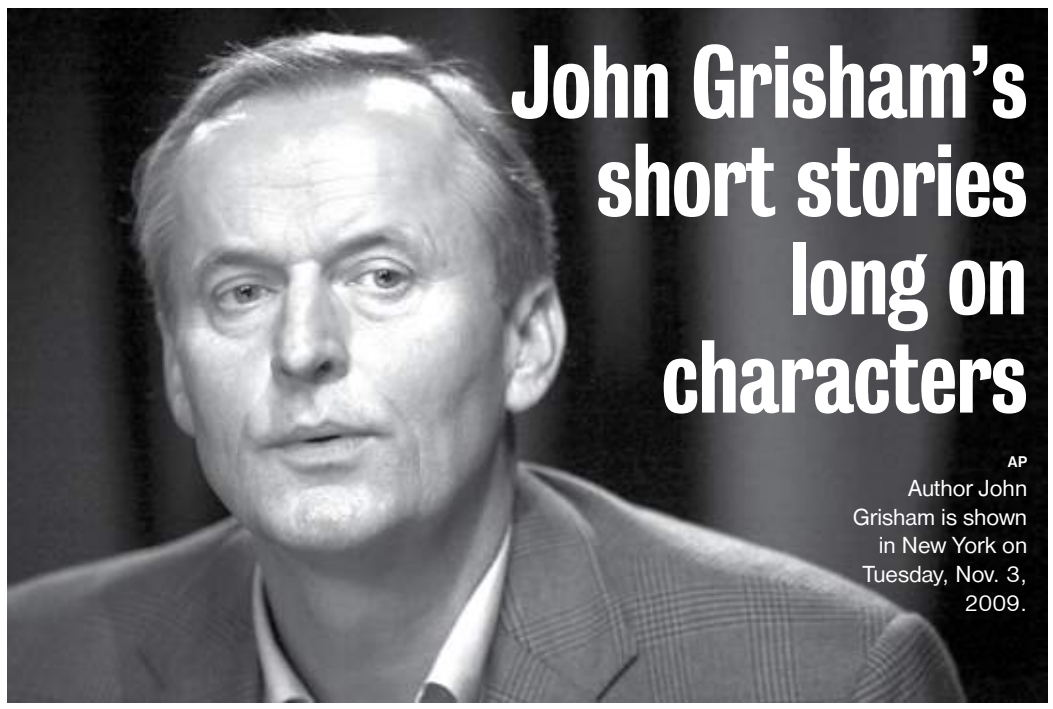
Please vote for **Heinz Sablan Hofschneider**
and his running mate **Arnold Indalecio Palacios.**

EDWARD MANIBUSAN
CNMI JUDGE (RETIRED)

Paid Ad

Life & Style

John Grisham's short stories long on characters



AP
Author John Grisham is shown in New York on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009.

NEW YORK (AP)—It's hard to sell a book of short stories. But not if you're John Grisham.

The author of "A Time to Kill," "The Client" and other blockbusters has written his first collection of short fiction, "Ford County," set in the Mississippi community he has used often in his fiction.

Grisham's latest—much of it based on his years as a criminal defense and personal litigation lawyer in Southaven, Miss.—includes tales of a dull, dumped husband redeemed by gambling, a ruthless attorney confronted by some old victims, and a bunch of buddies who plan to give blood to a hospitalized friend, but have a few drinks along the way.

Story collections rarely sell more than a few thousand copies, but demand for "Ford County" has been so high that it was caught in the publishing price wars, with Walmart.com and Amazon.com among those offering pre-orders of the $24 hardcover for $9 or less.

Wearing a checked brown blazer and light blue shirt—no tie—the 54-year-old author met with The Associated Press on Tuesday and discussed short stories, lawyers, clients and being turned down by The New Yorker.

Q: What made you decide to publish a book of short stories?

A: There are a lot of notes that I take and still do and these ideas, these stories I thought were going to be full-length novels and they just didn't make it. They're not long enough, not complicated enough, whatever. So I kept them and I guess about a year ago got serious about finishing the stories.

The great thing about a short story—you can work on it, put it away and forget about it for a year, and go back to it with a different perspective, or different idea. So I've done that for many years with these stories.

Q: Many of the stories don't have a very uplifting view of lawyers.

A: The truth of it is that most of the lawyers I knew way back then, and still know, are honest, hardworking people who don't make a lot of money, in a small town. Nobody wants to read about those guys. That's pretty dull. You want to read about a guy who stole money and faked his death or whatever, took off.

There's a general feeling of unhappiness and lack of fulfillment among many lawyers in small towns. They went to law school and now they're in a small town and maybe it's not what they thought it would be. It's just not as fulfilling. A lot of them are unhappy. And there's a sense of longing for escape, to get out of it and go do something else, whether it's a different profession or different locale, just to get out of it.

Q: You seem to have a real affinity with people who are up against it.

A: Those were the people I knew. Those were my clients. As a small-town lawyer, you don't meet people who are living happy, productive lives with no problems. Everybody who walks in the door has got a problem. Most of the people who walk in the door don't have a lot of money. They're injured, they're going through a divorce, they're going through a bankruptcy. Something bad's happened to them and they deal you the cards and you've got to help them as their lawyer. But because of that you see a lot of good material. You see some screwed up lives and they tend to be sad, but they also can be very colorful and that's where the material comes from.

Q: Do you read a lot of short fiction?

A: As a kid I recall reading short stories by Mark Twain and Charles Dickens and even as a young student, the great authors—Faulkner and Eudora Welty and Flannery O'Connor. Hemingway. I had a teacher in college, freshman comp, who loved Hemingway. All his short stories. ... For years, I've always enjoyed getting The New Yorker and just going off on the front porch for two hours and reading a great John Cheever short story.

Q: Do you dream of getting a short story in The New Yorker?

A: Well, we submitted some of these and they said they're too long. So I guess if I can cut some words out, maybe.

Q: What are you working on now?

A: (I) got the next novel in the outlining stages. We're going to try something different next year. We're going to publish the next big legal thriller at Christmas time, about a year from now. So there won't be a book in February, for the first time in a long time, many years. And I miss it. I love the February publication.

Q: Why change the publication date?

A: Well, we're trying to sell books. The numbers are down for everybody, across the board. One third of all books are sold at Christmas time ... We're going to do it and see if it works, see how the market reacts. If it sells a lot more copies, I'm sure we'll stay there, but I'm really partial to February.

Q: Why?

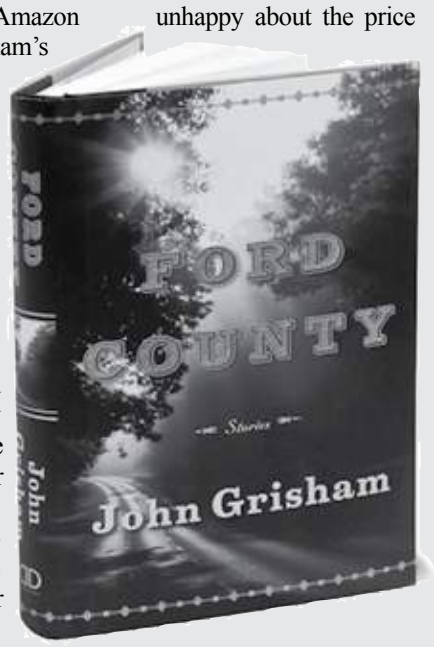
A: It's after Christmas, it's a great time to read. It gets folks in the bookstores. The stores love it. And it fits my schedule. I can write in the summertime, and early fall. In a typical year, I finish a book by October 1, finish all the editing and all that by Thanksgiving. That's the rule around the house and it's been that way for years. And then coast through the holidays and get ready to publish. That's been my schedule for a long time and I really like that schedule. So it's a rough life. (Laughs).

Price moves up and down for new Grisham book

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a weird day in the book price wars.

The cost of John Grisham's "Ford County," officially released Tuesday, moved up and down like stock market shares as rivals Amazon.com and Walmart.com extended, then rescinded, their high discounts for top-selling pre-orders.

Early in the day, Amazon was selling Grisham's book of short stories for $9, the same price it had offered for "Ford County" before publication and a sign that Amazon was ready to continue the cost competition beyond the release date. Walmart.com was selling "Ford County" for $12 early Tuesday, then cut the price to the pre-order discount of $8.98.



By Tuesday afternoon, the cost was back up to $11.99 for both online sellers.

"We remain committed to offering our customers the lowest prices online at Walmart.com, and will continue to adjust our pricing accordingly and as needed on these books," Walmart.com spokesman Ravi Jariwala.

Amazon.com did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Hardcovers generally have a list price of $24 or higher, but in mid-October Walmart.com announced dramatic cuts for pre-orders of "Ford County," Sarah Palin's "Going Rogue" and other popular November publications.

Wal-Mart.com initially charged $9 for the books, a price quickly matched by Amazon.com, then it dropped to just under $9 by Wal-Mart.com and Target.com. Authors, publishers and rival booksellers worry that cutting the price so low will harm competition and force down the cost of books overall, leading to a reduction in author advances.

"We run the risk of seriously devaluing out product," Grisham told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Target.com was selling "Ford County" for $15 on Tuesday.

Grisham also said he was unhappy about the price of e-books, which Amazon.com and others often sell for under $10. Although the author says he owns a Kindle and believes digital reading devices will keep getting "better and cooler and smarter," he believes that the price of e-books for new releases is so low that hardcover sales might suffer.

"Ford County" joins a growing list, including Palin's memoir and Stephen King's "Under the Dome," of books for which the e-edition will not come out until well after the hardcover.

"When a movie comes out you go see it and three later months later you buy the DVD," said Grisham, whose book currently does not have a release date for the electronic version. "We may do something like that (for `Ford County')."

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REVIEW OF COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION'S WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES **DOCKET 09-2**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT at 1:00 p.m. on November 16, 2009, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] will conduct a public hearing and regulatory workshop at the Senate Chamber in the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capitol Hill to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following regulatory matters concerning the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation [CUC] and on such other regulatory matters as may arise.

1. **FY10 CUC water and wastewater rate increases.**

The Commission will examine whether it would be prudent and necessary to increase CUC's water and wastewater rates effective December 1, 2009. This examination will occur within the context of the following recent events: a] By order dated June 20, 2009, the Commission directed CUC to increase its wastewater rates by 173.4% in two equal phases - effective July 1, 2009 and September 4, 2009. CUC supported this rate increase and cautioned the Commission that failure to implement the increase would materially impair its ability to comply with its duties under the Federal Stipulated Order [Federal Order] dated March 11, 2009, in USA v. CUC and CNMI. Nevertheless, CUC failed to implement the wastewater rate increase. b] The Federal Order directed CUC on or before September 7, 2008 to prepare and submit for Federal approval an interim financial plan, which would, in part, establish its need for rate relief during each of the next three years in order to comply with federal requirements for the restoration of its water and wastewater systems. On or about September 26, 2009, CUC filed a tardy interim financial plan for federal review and approval. Federal authorities have determined that the plan does not satisfy the Federal Order's requirements, which are material to the Commission's determination of CUC's need for additional rate relief in the current fiscal year [FY10]. c] CUC has failed to provide the Commission with material financial information, which is necessary for the Commission's regulatory consultant [Georgetown] to accurately quantify CUC's need for additional water and wastewater rate relief in FY10. d] By initial report dated October 21, 2009, Georgetown advises that based upon available information, additional water rate relief of 51% and additional wastewater rate relief of 184% in FY10 would be necessary to enable CUC to meet the requirements of the Federal Order. Georgetown cautions, however, that these estimates are subject to revision, if and when, CUC provides essential delinquent financial information and further when a federally approved interim financial plan has been crafted and adopted. A follow-up Georgetown report will be filed with the Commission on November 4, 2009. e] By rate order dated September 3, 2009, the Commission found that substantial inefficiencies in CUC's billing and collection system and in its service rules cause unreasonable expenses and lost revenues, which if corrected would reduce the need for increases to CUC's water and wastewater rates. CUC was directed to immediately commence an assessment of these inefficiencies. The Commission awaits a status report from CUC on the status of this assessment.

2. **Water and wastewater lifeline rates.**

Georgetown recommends in its October 22, 2009 summary report that in the event the Commission decides to implement additional FY10 water and wastewater rate increases effective December 1, 2009, interim lifeline rates should also be established effective December 1, 2009 for CUC's low income water and wastewater customers. The details of these lifeline rates will be contained in Georgetown's November 4, 2009 supplemental filing.

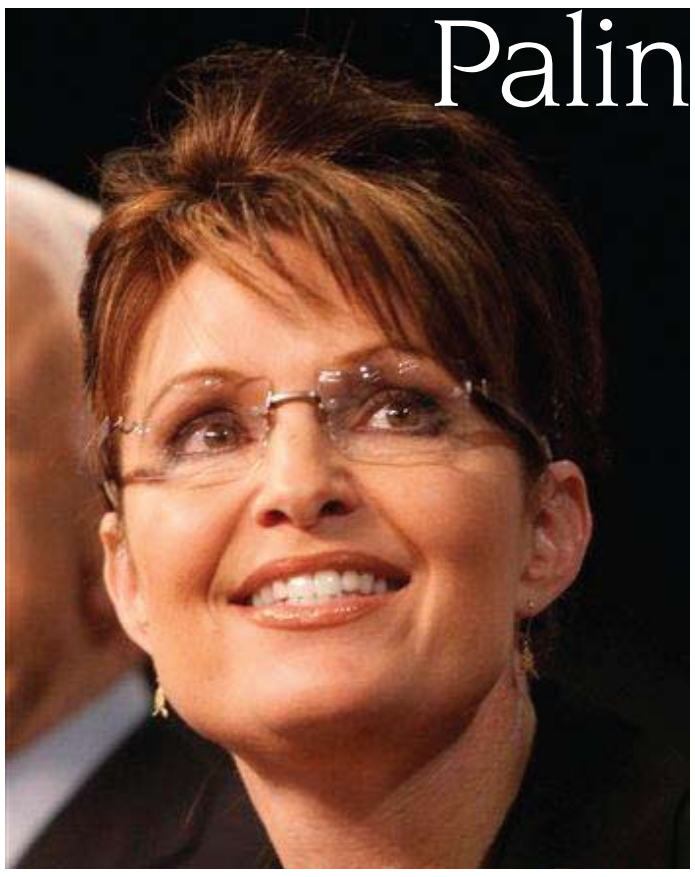
3. **Synchronization of Commission's regulatory activities with Federal Order.**

By order dated September 2, 2009, the Commission directed Georgetown to review CUC's interim financial plan, as required by the Federal Order and: 1. recommend a process by which the Commission should examine CUC's need for rate relief during the three year term of the interim plan; 2. identify material deficiencies in the interim plan; and 3. recommend essential components in CUC's financial management plan, as required by the Federal Order, which will be necessary to enable CUC to comply with the Federal Order. Federal authorities have requested the Commission's input on these matters toward the objective of synchronizing Commission and federal regulatory activities related to the Federal Order. At the hearing, the Commission will review Georgetown's report on this matter, which will be filed on November 4, 2009.

COPIES OF THE March 11, 2009 Federal Order, CUC's September 26, 2009 interim financial plan and Georgetown's October 22, 2009 summary letter are incorporated herein by reference and are available for public inspection at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website [www.saipanchamber.com] under its Public Utilities tab. Georgetown's subsequent November 4, 2009 reports, as discussed herein, will also be posted on the Chamber website for public inspection and will also be available for public inspection at the Chamber's office at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at the November 16, 2009 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before November 9, 2009 file with the Commission at the Chamber's office an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on November 20, 2009 at the Chamber's office to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered a the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

Palin book tour to start Nov. 18



AP

In this Aug. 29, 2008 file photo, then Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin,is shown in Dayton, Ohio.

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Palin's book tour is a gift for her base.

No stops are planned in Seattle, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and other major cities and book-buying communities that are standard for authors on the road, but where the voters tend to be Democrats.

Beyond a Nov. 16 television interview with Oprah Winfrey, nothing is scheduled for Chicago. New York will feature media appearances only. Instead, the itinerary for Palin, whose "Going Rogue" comes out Nov. 17, includes Noblesville, Ind.; Washington, Pa.; and Rochester, N.Y.

"She wants to be unconventional. She is unconventional," HarperCollins spokeswoman Tina Andreadis said Wednesday. "She feels like this is where her fans are and Harper feels this is where she'll sell the most books."

"Going Rogue" has an announced first printing of 1.5 million copies and has been at or near the top of Amazon.com's best-seller list for weeks.

On Wednesday, ABC News announced that Barbara Walters would interview Palin, to air in five parts over three ABC News broadcasts—"Good Morning America," "Nightline" and "20/20," starting the morning of publication day.

On her Facebook site, Palin says she's hoping to schedule interviews with others, including Rush Limbaugh and four Fox News Channel personalities: Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and Greta Van Susteren. All but Van Susteren have their own radio programs.

The tour starts Nov. 18 at a Barnes & Noble in Grand Rapids, Mich., where Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, and running mate Sen. John McCain made a campaign appearance last fall.

Choosing Michigan as the first state fits the book's title, which refers to reports from last year that the then-Alaska governor was defying McCain's staff and instead had gone "rogue." Palin openly expressed her unhappiness with the campaign's decision to pull out of Michigan and effectively concede the state to Democrat Barack Obama.

FOR SENATOR WHY NOT!

PETE P. REYES

To my honored constituents,

I take this opportunity to thank you, the people of Saipan and the Northern Islands, for the honor of entrusting me to represent you in the Senate for the last three terms. I also want to thank all of you for your warm hospitality during my personal visits to your homes. It has been a privilege talking with you and hearing your thoughts and concerns. The stories you have shared and the time you have spent have reminded me of the deep and abiding bond that shines through our community. And to those who were away when I came, I hope that you had the opportunity to review my progress report.

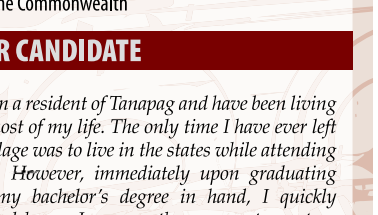
My third term as a senator and first as Senate President has been a busy one. We have passed laws to cut the cost of government, strengthen the financial position of the Retirement Fund, reform the management of public lands, establish a Public Utilities Commission, and taken on other critical and pressing matters, all with your best interest and welfare in mind.

But there is still work to be done. Many difficult decisions will need to be made in the coming years. These decisions will test the judgment and experience of each legislator, and his or her willingness to work hard to get the job done. In the six terms that I have been a public servant I have never forgotten whose voice I represent- because I still dream of the same things you do. Just like you, I desire a productive society, an educated workforce, a healthy economy and responsible, accountable representation. My years of service have inspired an even deeper commitment to serve your best interests. With your support, I pledge to continue being your voice and strongest advocate in the Senate. I will continue to do what is right even when it is unpopular. I will speak on your behalf when you feel you aren't heard.

I ask you to consider my record of good judgment, experience, hard work, and responsible, accountable representation when you cast your vote on Saturday, November 7th. Please remember that your vote matters to more than just me, it matters to our future.

I thank you for the support you have given me in the past and look forward to serving you once again as your senator. I humbly ask for your continued support and vote of confidence. As always, please remember that the door to the "Office of the People" is always open.

Pete P. Reyes
Your Public Servant



8 REYES, Pete Pangelinan (Republican)

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Senator Pete P. Reyes

PLEASE VOTE #3

GEORGE NORITA CAMACHO

for House of Representative

PRECINCT 4

BIO

Spouse: Susana Borja Quitano
Children: Kuino Benbar
Heath Quinten
Parents: Vicente (Ben Dinga) Tudela Camacho
Marcy Lieto Norita Camacho
Mother-in-Law: Joaquina "Kinai" Tenorio Borja Quitano
Father-in-Law: Manuel Torres Quitano
Grandparents:
Father side: Sebastian Taimanao Camacho
Dolores Tudela Camacho
Mother side: Julian (Felipe) Norita
Consalation Lieto Norita
Julia Kotomor Norita

EDUCATION:

Summer Pre Law Program,
Certificate of Award. CNMI Supreme Court

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Political Science
Washington State University,
Pullman, Washington.

Associate of Arts, Major in Liberal Studies
Northern Marianas College
Saipan, CNMI

High School Diploma,
Chief Sealth High School,Seattle Washington
Seattle Washington

EMPLOYMENT:

CNMI Legislature – Legislative Bureau
- House Legislative Assistant, October 2008– Present
- Senate Legislative Assistant, January 2006 -Oct 2008
- Acting Director, May 2005 – January 2006
- Senate Legislative Assistant, October 2003

Public School System – San Vicente / Kagman Elementary School
- Teacher I, August 1999 – October 2003

Microl Corporation – San Jose, Saipan
- Operations Manager, Microl Shipping, January 1994 to June 1995
- After Market Retailer, Parts Department, June 1998 to August 1999

Northern Marianas College, Saipan
- Lab Assistant, English Lab, August 1993 – May 1994

PLATFORM

Education
- Prioritize educational needs of our children by earmarking funding for elementary, junior high, and high schools
- Invest in Vocational/Technical Certification Programs for our people to foster a sustainable work force
- Support Scholarship Program while holding recipients accountable to return to the CNMI to give back to the community

YOUTH: Investing in our Youth.

GOAL: *Invest in our youth and give them the proper tools to become productive, contributing, and independent members of the community.*

- Work closely with the schools to ensure that our children are filled with positive activities that will enrich their knowledge and skills.
- Create interesting programs that the youth will be involved where they can learn and practice important virtues
- Invest in activities beyond after-school programs that will provide structure and guidance, and healthy activities.
- Provide safe and secure facilities for our children to develop their skills and abilities.
- Explore universal health care options for the people of the Commonwealth

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Continue paving secondary roads
- Continue striving for Reliable water
- Reduce road hazard and increase visibility by installing traffic lights and street lights in school zones

UTILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: *Provide reliable and affordable power and water systems to best serve the community. Develop infrastructure to serve the people in their needs.*

- Work closely with our local utilities corporation to ensure that resources and revenue are reinvested to continually upgrade our utilities.
- Continually seek out means to improve our roads and other infrastructures.
- Identify viable alternative energy resources to assist power generation and decrease our dependence on costly fossil fuels.

HEALTH CARE

Goal: *Provide complete and affordable health care for the citizens of the Commonwealth.*

- Work with the DPH to find solutions to the many concerns and deficiencies of our local hospital.
- Seek out means to provide for more doctors, including exploring hiring of highly qualified Asian Doctors, to best serve our community. These are the same doctors that we send our medical referral patients to.

YOUR CANDIDATE

I am a resident of Tanapag and have been living here most of my life. The only time I have ever left the village was to live in the states while attending school. However, immediately upon graduating with my bachelor's degree in hand, I quickly returned home. I see no other reason to venture into other areas, when my home is here. It is for this reason that I have chosen to run for office.

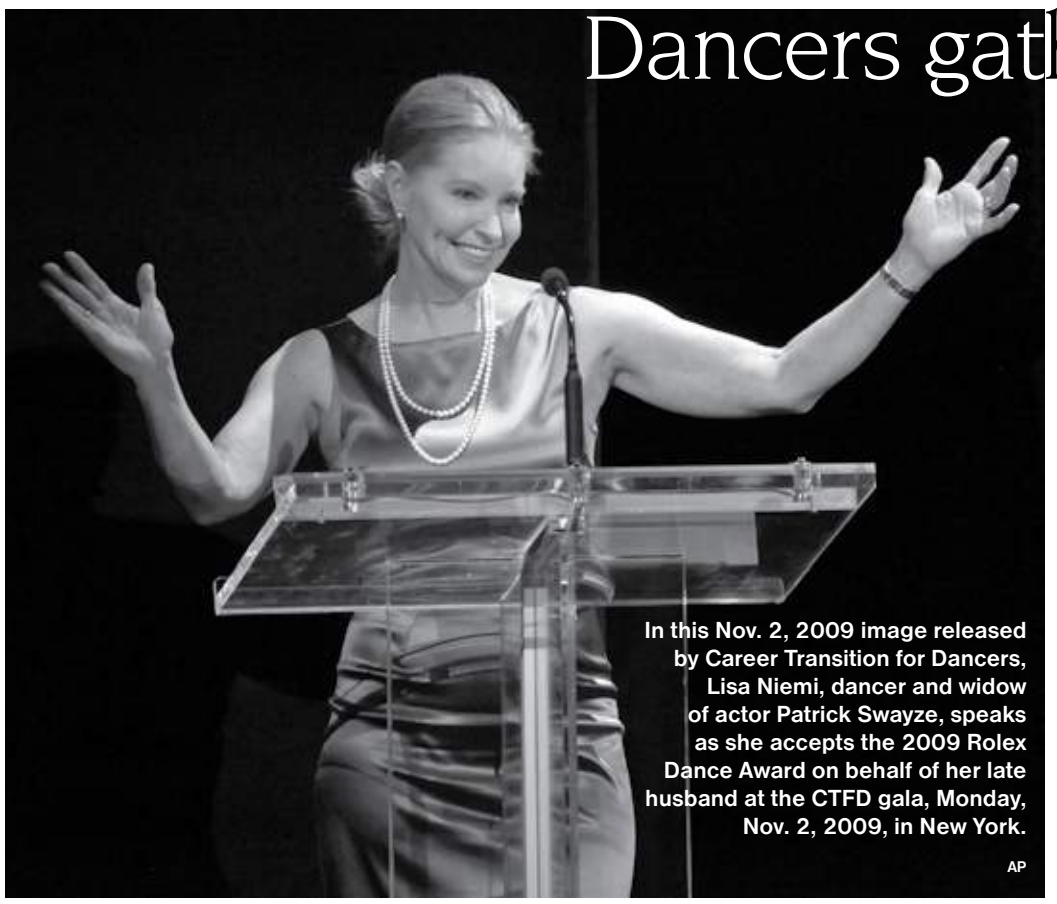
There are many issues that our island is facing, along with many particular issues with Precinct IV. I have taken the challenge upon myself, with the support of my family and friends, and I ask you too for your support. It is only thru working together that we can achieve our goals. One of my primary missions is to protect and invest in our youth. We must provide our children with the proper tools and guidance to help them prepare them for their future. We must also invest in Education and proper Health Care, while continuing to build on our islands infrastructure.

I thank you all for your time and I humbly ask for your support and vote this November. Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Olomwaay.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES:

- **Saipan Little League Inc.** Coach & Manager – Tanapag Braves (Majors Division) 2004-Present
- **Micronesian Student Association of WSU.** Co-founder. President Fall 1997-Spring 1998, Vice president Fall 1996-Spring 1997
- **Tanapag Youth Club.** Member and Advisor 1990-1991

Dancers gather to honor Patrick Swayze



In this Nov. 2, 2009 image released by Career Transition for Dancers, Lisa Niemi, dancer and widow of actor Patrick Swayze, speaks as she accepts the 2009 Rolex Dance Award on behalf of her late husband at the CTFD gala, Monday, Nov. 2, 2009, in New York.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Before Patrick Swayze was a film actor, a TV actor and People magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive," he was a dancer.

And so it was fitting that a huge, eclectic group of dancers gathered to honor him this week at the annual fundraiser for Career Transition for Dancers, a group that helps dancers develop new careers after age or injury forces them to halt dancing.

Swayze had been chosen as this year's honoree well before his death in September of pancreatic cancer at age 57. His wife of 34 years, Lisa Niemi, seemed to tear up as she accepted the Rolex Dance Award on his behalf, telling the crowd her husband was now "dancing with the angels."

Monday's event at New York's City Center featured a huge variety of dancers of all types: ballet, modern, tap, jazz, salsa. Among the highlights: the "Stars and Stripes" pas de deux by Ashley Bouder and Andrew Veyette of New York City Ballet; the synchronized tap-dancing of the Lombard Twins; excerpts from Bob Fosse's "Dancin'"; and a salsa performance by unheralded youngsters Alexandra Gutkovitch, 10, and John Gaylan, 14, that brought down the house.

Swayze is best known for his roles in the popular films "Dirty Dancing" and "Ghost," but his first professional job was as a dancer for Disney on Parade. He studied with the Harkness Ballet Company and then the Joffrey Ballet before joining the Eliot Feld Ballet as a principal dancer.

He also starred as Danny Zuko in the Broadway production of "Grease" before achieving sudden stardom as dance instructor Johnny Castle in "Dirty Dancing."

Classical music has its day at the White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Classical music took over the White House on Wednesday as Barack and Michelle Obama used two concerts and a series of workshops for young musicians to send a clear message that the music of the masters isn't just for stuffed shirts.

The president told the audience at an evening concert in the East Room that classical music is "lifting hearts and spurring imaginations" all across the nation, and is something to be enjoyed by aficionados and the uninitiated alike.

The concert featured some of today's most important young and vibrant classical musicians: violinist Joshua Bell, classical guitarist Sharon Isbin, cellist Alisa Weilerstein and pianist Awadagin Pratt. And the superstars teamed with some youngsters of uncanny ability.

Pratt plunked himself down on a piano bench next to 14-year-old Lucy Hattemer of Cincinnati to perform a Schubert duet on the East Room's Steinway during the afternoon concert. Weilerstein, 27, was upstaged by her 8-year-old partner, Sujari Britt, a student at New York's Manhattan School of Music, on a duet by Italian composer Luigi Boccherini.

Bell, performing in shirt sleeves and jeans, introduced a Paganini duet with Isbin at the afternoon concert by telling the audience that the Italian violinist was "sort of like the Beatles of his time." He also showed that not even the pros are immune to the occasional flub. During his duet with Isbin, Bell inadvertently skipped a couple of lines, and jokingly pronounced it "the abridged version."

At the evening concert, Obama tried to put the audience at ease by telling the crowd that even President Kennedy wasn't always sure when to clap during classical performances and had to get a signal from his social secretary on when to applaud.

"Fortunately, I have Michelle to tell me when to applaud," he joked. "The rest of you are on your own."

At the afternoon performance, Mrs. Obama gave the youngsters a big shout-out for practicing even when they don't feel like it, lugging around heavy instruments and laboring to perfect tough pieces.

"It's through that struggle that you find what you truly have to offer to your instrument or to anything in life," she said. "You'll learn that if you believe in yourself and put in your best effort, that there's nothing that you can't achieve. And those aren't just lessons about music. These are really lessons about life."

Sixteen-year-old percussionist Jason Yoder, who performed both in the afternoon and evening concerts, pronounced it "a very good day for classical music." A student at Pittsburgh's Creative and Performing Arts School, he performed a duet of Saint-Saens' "The Swan" with Weilerstein.

"In my generation, classical music is kind of looked down upon," Yoder said, adding that the White House spotlight could help change that.

The day's events were part of a White House Music Series that also has featured concerts of jazz, Latin and country music.

Group urges CW stations not to air 'Gossip Girl'

NEW YORK (AP)—On-air promos for a sexual threesome on an upcoming episode of "Gossip Girl" have spurred the Parents Television Council to ask affiliates of the CW network to pre-empt the show.

Airing the teen tryst, which is being teased in an ad as a "3SOME," is "reckless and irresponsible," said PTC president Tim Winter in a statement Wednesday. The threesome involves three main characters in the show but they are not identified in the promos.

The PTC has urged CW affiliate stations not to air the episode, scheduled for Nov. 9.

In a letter to the affiliates, Winter asked: "Will you now be complicit in establishing a precedent and expectation that teenagers should engage in behaviors heretofore associated primarily with adult films?"

This is not the first time the PTC has complained about the sexy prep-school soap, which Winter said is "expressly targeted to impressionable teenagers."

In July 2008, the organization spoke out against a racy marketing campaign for its new season. Ads showed intimate moments between the show's characters (on a couch, in the sack or apparently skinny-dipping), accompanied by headlines like "A Nasty Piece of Work" and "Mind-Blowingly Inappropriate."

"CW has been defending graphic content on 'Gossip Girl' by asserting that they don't target teenagers," Winters said Wednesday. "Such a claim doesn't even pass the 'laugh test.'"

CW spokesman Paul McGuire said the target audience for "Gossip Girl" is 18- to 34-year-old women, with a median viewer age of 27 years old. The network had no comment on PTC's complaint, he said.

The Parents Television Council describes itself as a nonpartisan education group advocating responsible entertainment.

AP

In this image released by The CW, a controversial print advertisement for the second season of "Gossip Girl," is shown.

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$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
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TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

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NOW SHOWING

A Christmas Carol
Friday 4:25 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:00
Mon thru Tues 4:25 7:00
Jim Carrey, Robin Wright Penn
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
Ebenezer Scrooge begins the Christmas holiday with his usual miserly contempt, barking at his faithful clerk and his cheery nephew. But when the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come take him on an eye-opening journey revealing truths Old Scrooge is reluctant to face, he must open his heart to undo years of ill will before it's too late.

The Men Who Stare at Goats
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Tues 4:20 7:20
George Clooney, Jeff Bridges
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

The Fourth Kind
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Tues 4:05 7:10
Milla Jovovich, Will Patton
Thriller • Rated PG 13

The Box
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Tues 4:10 7:05
Cameron Diaz, James Marsden
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Kimmy Dora
Friday 4:00 7:30 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:00 7:30 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:00 7:30
Mon thru Tues 4:00 7:30
Eugene Domingo, Dingdong Dantes
Musical, Documentary • Rated NR

Michael Jackson's This Is It
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:30 7:15 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:30 7:15
Mon thru Tues 4:30 7:15
Michael Jackson
Musical, Documentary • Rated PG

Synopsis
A rare glimpse into the final days of Michael Jackson, the documentary is compiled from an estimated 80 hours of rehearsal and behind-the-scenes footage of the legendary entertainer preparing for his 50 sold-out shows at London's O2 Arena that were scheduled to commence in July 2009 before his untimely death in June at age 50. Interviews with collaborators and close friends of the late performer are also featured.

Astro Boy
Friday 4:15
Saturday 1:15 4:15
Sunday 1:15 4:15
Mon thru Tues 4:15
Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage
Action, Comedy • Rated PG

Vampire's Assistant
Friday 7:25 10:00
Saturday 7:25 10:00
Sunday 7:25
Mon thru Tues 7:25
John C. Reilly, Chris Mssoglia
Adventure, Fantasy, Children • Rated PG 13

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‘Avatar’ star gets in touch with his inner human

Forget the flying dragons and giant blue aliens, Sam Worthington is in search of human life amid all that extraterrestrial spectacle in “Avatar.”
LOS ANGELES TIMES

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Forget the flying dragons and giant blue aliens, Sam Worthington is in search of human life amid all that extraterrestrial spectacle in “Avatar.” Director James Cameron’s sci-fi epic arrives Dec. 18 amid intense discussion of its state-of-the-art performance capture and 3-D innovations, but for Worthington, the 33-year-old Australian star of the film, none of that is as important as locating the human heart in the story.

“I don’t believe there’s a certain way to act in an action blockbuster and I think it’s a mistake to approach it that way,” Worthington said. “It still has drama, romance, suspense; it’s only a blockbuster because of the scale and the money they throw in and maybe the time of year it comes out. If you bring in the subtleties of proper human emotion, then an audience can relate to a character. That character isn’t just a cartoon. I don’t want to be a cartoon.”

It was that mix of adventure and relatable human emotion that Cameron, whose last leading man was Leonardo DiCaprio in “Titanic,” was going for. For “Avatar,” he said, he needed a star who could handle the action but also pull the audience along over a lot of emotional ground—as well as exotic alien-jungle terrain. The director said, in aspiration, “Avatar” has more in common with Rudyard Kipling, Joseph Conrad and Edgar Rice Burroughs than with modern Michael Bay cinema.

“I’ll go to a ‘Transformers’ film for the fun of seeing the spectacle,” Cameron said, “but, personally, my soul craves a little more story, a little more meat on the bone and characters and that sort of thing.”

In the futuristic tale of “Avatar,” Worthington portrays Jake Sully, a Marine who comes home from combat in a wheelchair. He gets a chance to walk, run and fight again, though, through a strange off-world mission. Scientists will place his consciousness in an avatar, a towering blue body grown in a laboratory melding alien genetic material with Sully’s own DNA. This new body is sent to a jungle planet to help plunder a valuable mineral but, in a sort of intergalactic “Dances With Wolves” scenario, Sully goes native.

Cameron wrote the script for “Avatar” before he made his Oscar-winning 1997 film “Titanic.” He’s been waiting for the technology to catch up to his vision to make it, he says. A key concern has been the motion-capture process, which, with its “dead” eye look has been the bane of motion-capture, leaving characters looking somehow off, not fully alive. Cameron believes that’s now a thing of the past. That’s why some observers are referring to “Avatar” as a “game-changer” for special-effects films—yet there are skeptics who are calling it the most over-hyped Hollywood release of 2009.

AP
In this film publicity image released by Twentieth Century Fox, Sam Worthington is shown in a scene from, “Avatar.”

And at the center of this massive machinery is the brawny Worthington, a former bricklayer and high-school dropout from west Australia. His life path changed at the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney; a girl he knew planned to submit an application for the program, so he joined her as a lark.

“To have these opportunities now, I’m extremely humble about it, to be honest with you,” Worthington said. “I feel lucky to do these kinds of films. I always said I wanted to make movies that I would go see. I would pay 12 bucks to go see ‘Avatar.’ Just to be part of it all—I pinch myself.”

In person, Worthington comes off as coolly confident and wildly straightforward; he seems about as ironic as a rugby tackle. He said, for instance, that one of his goals as an actor is to portray men who prove that “a man’s fate isn’t written, that he decides his own fate,” a lesson he wants to impart to his 9-year-old nephew. Worthington’s screen career began with an episode of “JAG” in 2000, and he caught the eye of Hollywood with performances in smaller films, such as his lead role in Geoffrey Wright’s gritty 2006 “Macbeth,” which reframed the Shakespeare play in the criminal underworld of Melbourne.

But there was a big one that got away. Worthington was one of three finalists in the search for the new James Bond but lost out to Daniel Craig, whose screen aura is a more cynical menace. Instead, Worthington is getting a reputation as an action hero with soulful eyes; in “Terminator Salvation,” opposite Christian Bale, the relative newcomer was the most memorable part of the film for many reviewers.

“(W)earing his conflicted humanity like Clint Eastwood in his Sergio Leone days,” film critic Betsy Sharkey wrote in the Los Angeles Times, “Worthington overtakes every scene that he’s in.”

And that kind of attention is growing in Hollywood. He will star with Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes in “Clash of the Titans,” which hits theaters in March, and he has completed two other films, John Madden’s “The Debt,” a war-crimes thriller with Helen Mirren, and “Last Night,” a New York romance with Keira Knightley, which was shot in 2008.

He was slated to star with Charlize Theron in another thriller, “The Tourist,” as well, but that project may be in flux. There is talk too that Worthington will reunite with his “Terminator Salvation” director McG for Disney’s major revival of “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.”

For the actor, though, the bigger the franchise, the tighter his focus on the people living and breathing between the explosions. “If you’re going to do blockbusters,” he said, “you have to find the human in them or else you’re just making a video game.”

Woman objects to giving cell phone number to her boss

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boss wants my cell phone number for "work purposes." He has trouble with limits, and I am reluctant to give it to him. I don't want to receive text messages, unsolicited calls or contact outside of work. My private life is just that—private.

I have kept an unlisted cell number for many years for good reason. I have a home phone and will answer it when the boss calls. I arrive promptly at work, but leave the job there.

My privacy is important. I had a bad marriage, and there was stalking and invasion by my ex-husband. Those individuals who need my cell number have access to it.

Am I out of line? I realize that many people use their cell phones as their only phones and others don't mind receiving calls, but am I required to do so?

I think this has upset my boss even though I have explained my reason. I don't use my cell phone on the job; it's in my purse except during personal time (lunch, etc.). Must I give up my privacy to keep my job?

WANTS PRIVACY

DEAR WANTS PRIVACY: As long as your boss has your home phone and can reach you in case of some emergency, I see no reason why he should be pressuring you for your cell phone number. Stick to your guns and don't apologize for it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old girl whose parents have been married for almost 19 years. Mom started school two years ago to become a nurse.

She has always been an independent woman, but since she went back to school and is making her own money, she feels the need to be more free. Mom works eight to 12 hours a day. She leaves early and comes home late. She never stays for dinner when she's home, nor does she do anything with us as a family anymore. She used to work in the same study as my dad, but she moved upstairs. She also won't sleep in the same bed as Dad.

Mom is seeing a marriage counselor, and she wants a divorce and to move away. She says nothing is broken in the marriage and there's nothing to fix—but why does she want to leave? She promises she won't see less of us, but she will be more than a half-hour away. She works nonstop and is constantly going out with her friends. I miss her, and I want my old Mom back! Is there any way I can stop her from going? Am I selfish for wanting her to stay?

SHAKEN IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SHAKEN: You are going through a rough period, and you have my sympathy. Your mother appears to be so preoccupied with herself that she has forgotten she's a mother. Under the circumstances, all of your feelings are normal. Of course you want your mother and your old life back, and those feelings aren't "selfish."

While you can't stop your mother from leaving, you can ask her if you can join her during a couple of her therapy sessions so you can air your feelings in a safe environment and get some of the answers you're looking for. There are very real changes going on in your life and your parents'. You deserve some answers, and you are old enough to hear them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Chris Brown is unsure about his image

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Brown says he is unsure about how the public perceives him since he attacked Rihanna.

Brown beat up his ex-girlfriend in February and is on probation for the assault.

In an interview with MTV News, the 20-year-old says he's "confused" about his public image. He says that he thinks his fans "love me and support me." But he acknowledges there are people "that don't want to see me do anything ... they wanna see me kind of, basically in jail."

He also says he's trying to get past the scandal and learn from his mistakes.

"Chris Brown: The Interview," premieres on Friday—the same day Rihanna's interview airs on "20/20."

AP

In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Chris Brown arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

ABC's Roberts lands Janet Jackson interview

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC has booked a prime-time interview with pop star Janet Jackson, expected to be her first lengthy television interview since her brother Michael's death.

ABC's Robin Roberts will interview Jackson at her California home for an hour-long special scheduled to air on Nov. 18. Jackson is promoting a greatest hits CD that is coming out for the holiday season.

ABC says it's the first time Jackson has allowed television cameras into her Malibu home.

Janet Jackson paid tribute to her late brother in September at MTV's Video Music Awards. She danced to a recording of their duet "Scream" and did not address the audience.

Michael Jackson died on June 25.

AP

In this Sept. 28, 2009 file photo, Janet Jackson arrives for the amfAR charity dinner during the fashion week in Milan, Italy.

Jude Law's 'Hamlet' goes from red to black

NEW YORK (AP)—Jude Law and his fellow cast mates in Broadway's production of "Hamlet" have no reason to be melancholy: They are an official hit.

Producers of the Shakespeare classic now playing at the Broadhurst Theatre said Wednesday they've recouped the show's $2.5 million costs in less than three months.

Says producer Arielle Tepper Madover: "It's heartening to see that Shakespeare can be a commercial success on Broadway, as well as seeing so many young audience members at the Broadhurst experiencing their first Shakespeare production."

The production began performances on Sept. 12 and plays until Dec. 6.

Law has been joined on Broadway this season by two other film stars seeing large box-office crowds: Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig in "A Steady Rain."

AP

In this undated theater publicity image originally released by Boneau Bryan Brown, Jude Law is shown in a scene from the Donmar Warehouse production of "Hamlet," by William Shakespeare, in London.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Founder of San Diego Comic-Con dies at 76

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Sheldon Dorf, who founded the world famous Comic-Con International comic book convention, has died. He was 76. A longtime friend, Greg Koudoulian, says the Ocean Beach resident died at a San Diego hospital on Tuesday from kidney failure. He had diabetes and had been hospitalized for about a year. Dorf, a freelance artist and comic strip letterer, founded Comic-Con in San Diego in 1970 after moving from Detroit. Today, the convention draws 125,000 fans a year and is a major gathering for comic book fans, artists, writers and movie stars. Koudoulian says Dorf was friends with comic greats such as Marvel artist Jack Kirby and "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz. He says Dorf was also instrumental in helping budding artists find audiences.

Latin Grammys honors Mexican icon Juan Gabriel

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Everyone on the red carpet has fond words for Juan Gabriel, the Mexican icon and singer-songwriter named Person of the Year at the Latin Grammys in Las Vegas. The Latin Recording Academy is honoring the "diva of Juarez" on Wednesday for his more than 100 million records sold, the 1,500 songs he has written over his three decade career and his philanthropic work. The musicians, actors and celebrities at Gabriel's big night didn't need much prompting to reminisce about their favorite tunes and sing a few lines from "Querida," "Amor eterno" or the singer's first hit from 1971, "No Tengo Dinero." When the man of the hour finally appeared on the red carpet, photographers and cameramen pushed down the velvet rope to get closer and get a shot of him.

Man arrested in LA celeb burglaries case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police say they have arrested a man sought in a case involving burglaries at the homes of celebrities. Police say Jonathan Ajar surrendered to police in Hollywood on Wednesday. Prosecutors charged him with 10 felony drug and gun counts after searching his home last month. Ajar has not been charged with any of the break-ins. Jail records do not indicate whether he has an attorney. Five other people are accused of stealing items from the homes of Orlando Bloom, Lindsay Lohan, Paris Hilton and other young stars. Police say a search of Ajar's home uncovered illegal drugs and several guns, which were prohibited after he was convicted in 2002 of a federal drug charge.

New reality cooking show for chef Gordon Ramsay

NEW YORK (AP)—Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay has some new people to yell at. The verbally abusive star of Fox's "Hell's Kitchen" has signed a deal with Fox for a second show. Tentatively called "Masterchef," it will feature Ramsay trying to turn people who have no experience in the food industry into expert cooks. Not surprisingly, producers say Ramsay won't be afraid to tell the would-be cooks the cold, hard truth about their work. Contestants will compete by whipping up dishes to be judged by a panel of expert chefs. The new series follows a format that has already proven successful in England and Australia. Fox did not immediately say when the new show will go on the air.

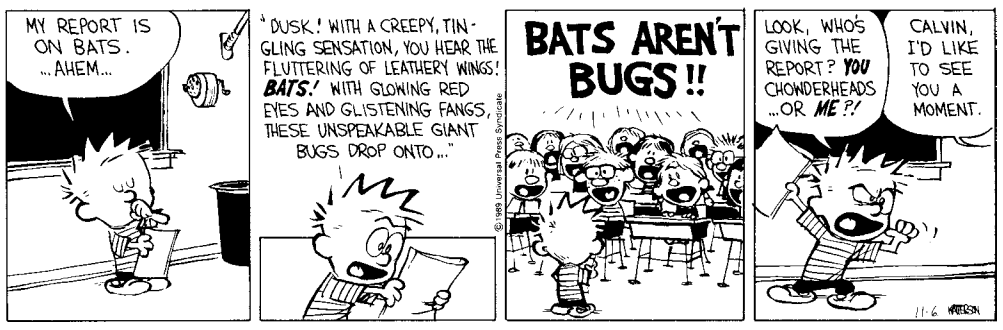
Sundance takes a hike with screenings around US

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival is going on the road for one night next winter. The independent-film showcase is sending eight films playing at the festival for screenings in eight cities around the country on Jan. 28. One film will go to each of the following cities: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Brooklyn, N.Y., Nashville, Tenn., Madison, Wis., Ann Arbor, Mich., and Brookline, Mass. The directors of each film will travel along to introduce their work and answer audience questions afterward. The films will be announced after the festival releases its lineup in December. The screenings will allow audiences around the country a taste of the festival that runs Jan. 21-31 in Park City, Utah.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY REPORT IS ON BATS. ...AHEM...
"DUSK! WITH A CREEPY, TINGLING SENSATION, YOU HEAR THE FLUTTERING OF LEATHERY WINGS! BATS!' WITH GLOWING RED EYES AND GLISTENING FANGS, THESE UNSPEAKABLE GIANT BUGS DROP ONTO..."
BATS AREN'T BUGS!!
LOOK, WHO'S GIVING THE REPORT? YOU CHOWDERHEADS ...OR ME?!
CALVIN, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU A MOMENT.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HI, HONEY. SO IS YOUR BOSS GOING BACK TO HQ TODAY?
AND YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT HIS VISIT?
HOW GOOD? "I'M GOING TO ASK FOR A RAISE GOOD"? OR "MY JOB'S SAFE FOR NOW GOOD"?
THAT'S FUNNY. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A "MY HUSBAND NEEDS TO CLEAN THE GUTTERS GOOD."
www.gocomics.com
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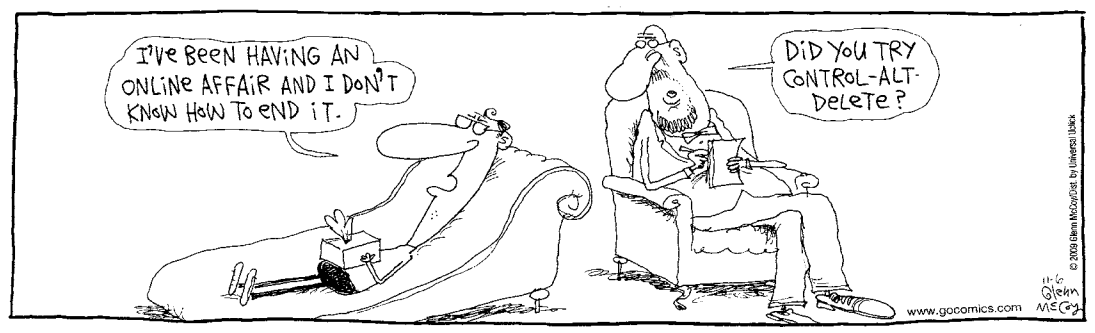
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'VE BEEN HAVING AN ONLINE AFFAIR AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO END IT.
DID YOU TRY CONTROL-ALT-DELETE?
www.gocomics.com
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

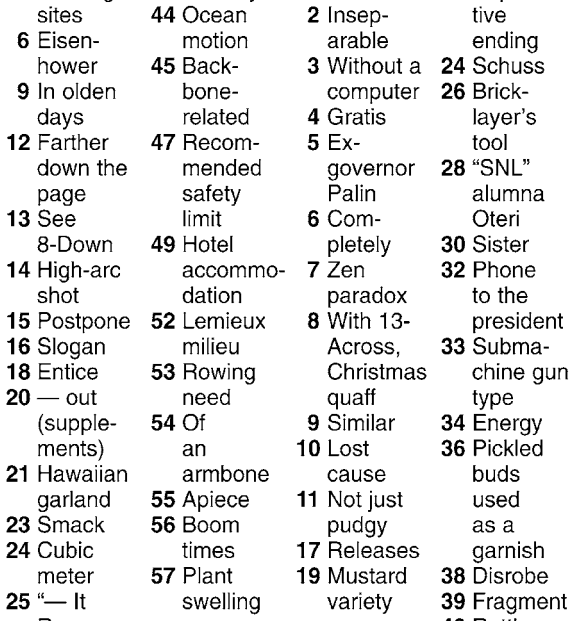
ACROSS
1 Urban sunning sites
6 Eisenhower
9 In olden days
12 Farther down the page
13 See 8-Down
14 High-arc shot
15 Postpone
16 Slogan
18 Entice
20 — out (supplements)
21 Hawaiian garland
23 Smack
24 Cubic meter
25 "— It Romantic?"
27 Athletes
29 Buffet-table heater
31 Out of reach, maybe
35 Prevention measure
37 Leak slowly
38 Offspring
41 Exist
43 Gratuity
44 Ocean motion
45 Backbone-related
47 Recommended safety limit
49 Hotel accommodation
52 Lemieux milieu
53 Rowing need
54 Of an armbone
55 Apiece
56 Boom times
57 Plant swelling

DOWN
1 Disencumber
2 Inseparable
3 Without a computer
4 Gratis
5 Ex-governor Palin
6 Completely
7 Zen paradox
8 With 13-Across, Christmas quaff
9 Similar
10 Lost cause
11 Not just pudgy
17 Releases
19 Mustard variety
21 Fleur-de- —
22 Superlative ending
24 Schuss
26 Bricklayer's tool
28 "SNL" alumna Oteri
30 Sister
32 Phone to the president
33 Submachine gun type
34 Energy
36 Pickled buds used as a garnish
38 Disrobe
39 Fragment
40 Rattlesnake's cousin
42 Follow
45 Child's play
46 "— Lang Syne"
48 Chit
50 Scot's topper
51 Mound stat

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	A	C	H	■	M	P	G	■	S	K	A	T
P	E	R	E	■	I	O	U	■	K	I	L	O
I	R	A	N	■	T	I	L	■	I	T	E	M
C	O	G	N	A	C	■	F	A	R	C	E	S
■	■	■	A	S	H	■	H	U	H	■	■	■
B	A	H	S	■	E	M	P	A	N	E	L	S
E	L	I	■	■	L	I	I	■	■	N	O	T
E	A	T	S	A	L	O	T	■	E	S	P	Y
■	■	■	C	U	B	■	■	C	O	M	■	■
A	S	H	R	A	M	■	H	E	B	R	E	W
W	H	I	G	■	I	S	M	■	A	U	R	A
L	I	N	E	■	L	E	A	■	R	I	N	D
S	A	G	S	■	D	E	N	■	K	N	E	E

Yesterday's answer 11-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ethan Hawke, 39; Maria Shriver, 54; Glenn Frey, 61; Sally Field, 63

Happy Birthday: Travel and communication will be a problem if you overreact or take on too much. This can be a money year but only if you stick close to home and work diligently. Alterations at home will bring a unique twist to the way you run your life, the tasks you take on and the pleasures you seek. A creative change will result in greater inspiration and the chance to show off your talents. Your numbers are 9, 14, 23, 27, 31, 33, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't take things so seriously. Enjoy the moment and have fun with friends and family for a change. Put everything aside and you will enhance your relationships and feel good about your future. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Nurture a relationship to enhance your feelings for one another. A trip may cost more than you want to spend but it will be well worth the money. Don't hold back when you have so much to offer. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Sort through the things that are bothering you about your professional life and what you've done in the past. It's time to put a plan together that will help you reach the goals you've set. Do your best to avoid mixing business with pleasure. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be emotional, sensitive and compassionate toward others. Connect with people who can offer you the same understanding and solutions in return. A change in your appearance will give you added confidence. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stick to the truth and don't let anyone talk you into getting involved in something that isn't going to benefit you. Focus on home and family. Make your residence better equipped to handle everyone's personal needs and you'll be a hero in your own home. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen, observe and learn from the people taking action in your area. Once you see the ins and outs of a situation, you can handle a neighborhood or community problem, giving you greater authority in the future. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A power struggle can be expected. Don't get involved in a situation that could be potentially dangerous. Avoid altercations with authority figures. Lay low and avoid anyone who is trying to pick a fight or limit your freedom. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Think about your future. It's about time you put an idea you have into practice. Fear of failure must not be allowed to hold you back. Success is often built by the mistakes made. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A secret you've been keeping will give you the upper hand now but don't exaggerate or you may be caught in the act and blamed for not being forthcoming. Put pressure on anyone owing you money, favors or possessions. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will stand out for your knowledge, expertise and ability to take action. Your ties to your past will enrich your decisions and help you turn a working relationship into something special. Show everyone who you are and what you can do. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Short trips, attending a lecture or trade show or just getting together with people who interest you will all be enlightening and will contribute to a decision about a partnership or contract you are contemplating. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Invite friends over or have a family get-together. You will connect with someone who has an interest in what you are doing and will offer good suggestions. There is money heading your way and deals to be made. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are affectionate and sensitive. You are open to change and are always looking for ways to improve personally and economically.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			3	1			5	9
	4			6				
							1	7
1								6
			5		8			
7								5
2	7							
				3			8	
6	9			8	4			1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	1	4	6	2	7	5	8
2	4	6	5	8	7	9	3	1
5	7	8	3	9	1	6	2	4
1	3	2	9	4	6	8	7	5
8	5	9	1	7	3	2	4	6
7	6	4	2	5	8	1	9	3
6	2	7	8	3	4	5	1	9
9	1	3	6	2	5	4	8	7
4	8	5	7	1	9	3	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PHOTO BOOTHS **Solution: 7 letters**

D	N	U	O	R	G	K	C	A	B	R	E	M	I	T
S	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	E	L	C	S	N	E
S	Y	T	L	E	V	O	N	N	B	O	N	N	D	K
E	T	P	A	R	T	Y	T	A	M	A	E	R	I	R
C	I	E	L	M	I	R	T	P	P	P	I	E	C	A
O	L	Z	A	C	O	R	U	S	O	N	N	D	A	M
R	A	I	N	U	O	T	H	P	S	E	E	O	T	R
P	U	S	G	P	E	O	U	T	G	L	V	M	I	E
R	Q	N	I	R	T	L	R	A	I	S	N	(M)	O	P
O	S	O	S	R	A	U	T	V	T	S	O	(A)	N	U
M	C	I	M	R	C	N	E	A	E	N	C	(L)	S	S
P	R	T	L	T	I	R	L	A	E	U	I	(L)	H	H
T	E	P	I	V	T	L	T	Y	A	I	N	R	I	A
S	E	O	F	N	I	A	T	R	E	T	N	E	P	P
N	N	O	S	T	A	L	G	I	C	T	N	E	V	E

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Yesterday's Answer: Lovable

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CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
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LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

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Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.

All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.

Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.

Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

HOUSING PRESERVATION TECHNICIAN II

Opening Date: October 26, 2009 Closing Date: November 27, 2009
Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: PL 28-01, $20,484.60 through PL28-05, $24,889.35 per annum. Commensurate with education, training and experience.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form **AND** required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 27, 2009 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than November 27, 2009, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

MANAGER, PROGRAM & HOUSING

Opening Date: October 19, 2009 Closing Date: November 20, 2009
Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: PL 35-01, $28,807.51, through PL35-05, $35,012.57, per annum. Commensurate with education, training and experience.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form **AND** required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

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Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 20, 2009 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than November 20, 2009, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

WANTED
Male Caregiver
Work days: Monday - Friday
Work hrs: 8:00am - 5:00pm
For inquiries please call
234-8829 Cell # 483-2325

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Name : Guangsheng Jin
Date of Birth : May 15, 1969
Passport No. : G11076349
Contact No. : 235-0515

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No.	Position	Compensation (per annum)	Open/Close Date
10.001	Laboratory Specialist (Chemist), Water Lab, Saipan 1 Position	$25,296.00 – $32,885.00	11/03/09 - 11/18/09
JVA No.	**Position**	**Compensation (per annum)**	**Open/Close Date**
10.002	Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager 1 Position	$60,000.00 – $70,000.00	11/05/09 - 11/19/09

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please contact the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

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HAND

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-025

"REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement of a **REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**. The Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Proposals should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"PSS RFP # 09-025"** containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, December 4, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer at fax # (670) 664-3797 or email to **thornburght@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions must be submitted no later than Tuesday, November 24, 2009.

Proposers are requested to submit a copy of their CNMI Business License with their proposal.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-035

"MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS SECURITY SERVICES"

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for One (1) Year Campus Security Services for Marianas High School Campus on the island of Saipan located in the CNMI. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope maked "IFB # 09-035" containing (1) original and three(3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than November 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp. Questions shall be submitted no later than November 17, 2009.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

OPEN SEASON - ENROLL IN THE AETNA Global Benefits /Government Group Health Insurance Plan

The ***Government Health Insurance*** will extend its Open Enrollment into the ***AETNA* Global Benefits** plan to December 23, 2009. During this period, government employees may apply for enrollment for themselves and their dependents or change their benefit and enrollment options in the program. Effective November 8, 2009, the employer's contribution share shall increase to 50%; rates are revised as follows:

Employees	OLD	NEW	Retirees	OLD	NEW
Single	$61.98	**$64.72**	Single	$ 67.14	**$70.11**
Couple	$127.05	**$132.68**	Couple	$137.67	**$143.73**
Family	$198.32	**$207.10**	Family	$214.84	**$224.36**

Co-payments, annual maximums, and lifetime maximums remain the same as last year's plan. NO BENEFITS HAVE BEEN REDUCED. For more information, retirees may call or visit Ray Ada, 322-8026, at the NMI Retirement Fund office on Capitol Hill. Government employees may visit their Human Resources section to pick up an enrollment form.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROVISION ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ10-GOV-006

702 CIP Project Managers

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Office of Capital Improvement (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting Statements of Qualifications from architect and engineers to provide project manager services for designated federally funded projects.

The Commonwealth has identified the need for additional project manager services for the Office of Capital Improvement during the upcoming 2010 calendar year. Project Managers will be required to assist in the implementation of the proposed management plan to develop critical infrastructures that will improve the quality of life for the people of the CNMI. Specific project assignments may include oversight of: project planning; permitting; vendor selection; design; construction; and close-out.

Selected architects and/or engineers ("Project Managers") will be retained as independent contractors under the general supervision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agent of the expenditure authority on assigned capital projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within: cost; time; and legal requirements; while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained on a one-year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at discretion of the Commonwealth.

Compensation for project manager services will be determined based on the required project management services for each assigned project. The Commonwealth will negotiate with selected Project Managers to determine the required scope of services for assigned responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected to serve as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services associated with the assigned project.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements ("Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements") at the Office of Capital Improvement Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, except holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements. A pre-proposal conference is schedule for this RFQ on October 30, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at the Commonwealth Division of Procurement & Supply, Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950. All submitted documents must follow submittal requirements.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 70-30.3-305. Five copies of qualifications should be submitted to the Commonwealth Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 in a sealed envelope marked "Project Manager Qualifications RFQ10-GOV-006." Qualifications must be received prior to noon (Saipan Time) of November 6, 2009 ("Closing Date").

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following factors:
1. Past experience as a project manager – 35%
2. References – 30%
3. Interview – 35%

Interviews will be conducted with the individuals who are determined to have the most appropriate qualifications for the needs of the Commonwealth. Architect and engineering firms may submit qualifications, however, they must identify qualifications of specific individuals who are to be considered for the provision of these services and evaluation of qualifications will be based on the experience, references, and interview of the designated individual.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA). Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the government. All submitted documents shall become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Wade scores 40 to lead Heat past Wizards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dwyane Wade scored 40 points, including a go-ahead jumper with 25 seconds left, to lead the Miami Heat in a 93-89 victory over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

It was the first time Wade reached 40 points since getting a career-high 55 in April against New York. Quentin Richardson had 19 points and nine rebounds for Miami (4-1).

Wade took the spotlight away from Washington's Gilbert Arenas, who scored 32 but was 9 of 27 from the field.

Arenas missed a layup with 17 seconds left after Wade's jumper, falling hard to the ground after driving through traffic, and rushed a short jumper on the next possession with the Wizards trailing by three points to end Washington's chances.

Arenas gave Washington an 89-87 lead with 1:30 remaining, driving the lane for a layup with 1 second showing on the shot clock. Jermaine O'Neal hit a jumper to tie it 19 seconds later.

DeShawn Stevenson missed two free throws with 44 seconds left to set up Wade's jumper.

Brendan Haywood had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Caron Butler had 13 points and 10 rebounds for Washington.

The tight final minutes came after Miami opened up a big early lead. Haywood opened the game with the dunk, but the Wizards didn't hold the lead again until Haywood's hook shot at 6:28 left in the third quarter gave Washington a 57-56 edge.

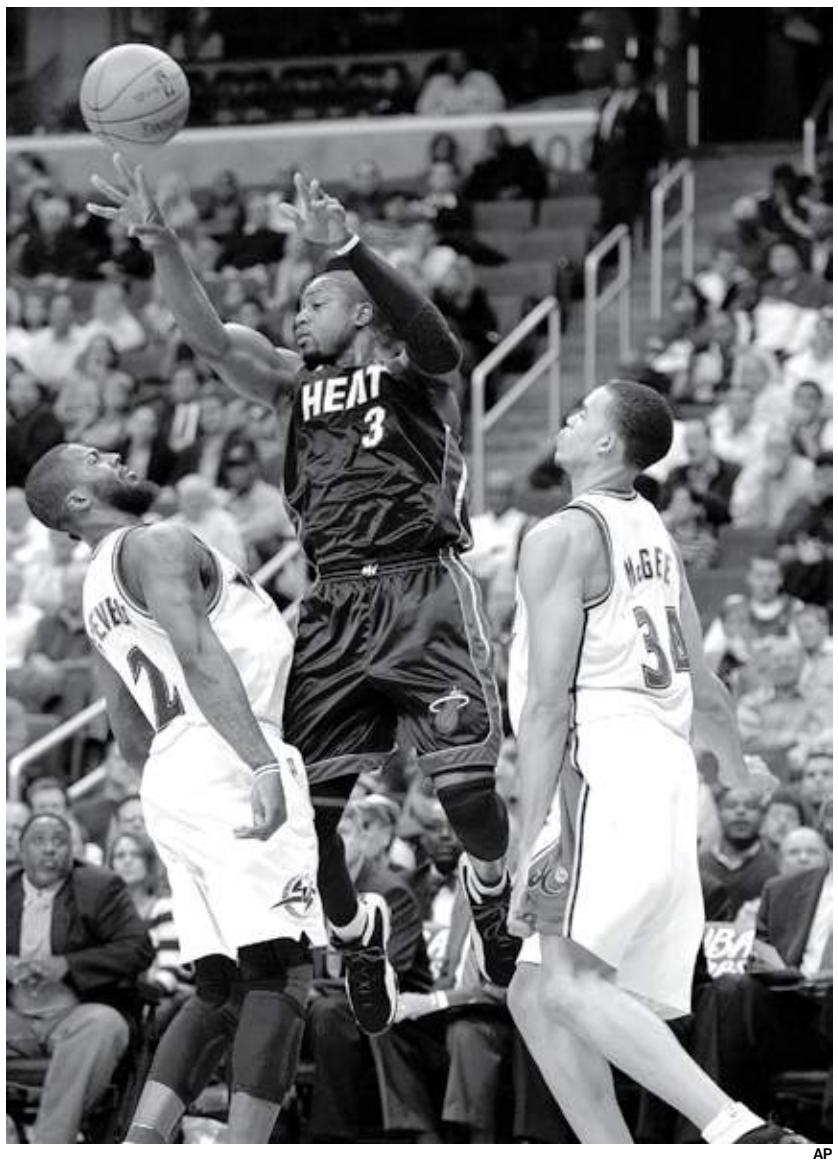
The rest of the quarter belonged to the team's dueling stars. Arenas scored nine of Washington's final 13 points in the third quarter. Wade outdid him, tallying Miami's final 10 points, including a last-second layup to tie the game at 66 entering the fourth quarter.

Miami had led by as many as 19 in the opening quarter, going up 27-8 with 3 1/2 minutes left in the first.

The Wizards clawed back in the second period. With Arenas on the bench, Washington went on a 17-2 run over a nearly 5-minute span to pull to 37-36. Wade made sure the Heat would hold on to the lead with a pair of 3-pointers, and Miami led 50-41 at halftime.

The Wizards finished the game without starter Mike Miller, who left in the fourth quarter with a left shoulder sprain. Miller first hurt the shoulder in the third quarter in a collision with the Heat's Mario Chalmers. Miller was taken to the locker room and returned to the bench a few minutes later with his shoulder taped. He re-entered the game late in the third quarter.

Miller, who was acquired by Washington in a trade with Minnesota in June, aggravated the injury with 9:11 left in the fourth quarter when he fell to the court on a foul by Miami's Joel Anthony. Miller completed the 3-point play and stayed in the game for about another minute before again leaving for the locker room.



AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) passes the ball between Washington Wizards guard DeShawn Stevenson (2) and center JaVale McGee (34) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, in Washington.

Magic 122, Suns 100

At Orlando, Florida, Ryan Anderson had 20 and 10 rebounds and Dwight Howard scored 25 as the short-handed Orlando Magic defeated the previously unbeaten Phoenix Suns.

Playing without injured Vince Carter and suspended Rashard Lewis, the Magic built a 23-point lead in the third quarter to pull away from the Suns.

Amare Stoudemire finished with 25 points and 14 rebounds for Phoenix, which was looking to match the 1984 team for the franchise's best start through five games.

Nuggets 122, Nets 94

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Chauncey Billups and Carmelo Anthony woke up unbeaten Denver in a 44-point third quarter to continue its best start since 1985.

The win was the fifth straight for Denver, one shy of the 1985 start, and it handed winless New Jersey a fifth straight loss, tying the worst start in team history, set in 1996.

Chris Douglas-Roberts had 19 points to lead the Nets, who were without All-Star guard Devin Harris and four other injured players.

Celtics 92, Timberwolves 90

At Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 12 points and 11 rebounds in his third game back in Minnesota since he was traded in 2007, helping Boston remain undefeated with a victory over the Timberwolves.

Rajon Rondo scored 14 of his 18 points in the third quarter for the Celtics (6-0), who join the Denver Nuggets as the only two teams in the league without a loss.

Oleksiy Pecherov scored a career-high 24 points and Al Jefferson added 18 points for the Timberwolves.

Pacers 101, Knicks 89

At New York, T.J. Ford scored eight of his 16 points in the final 3:12 for Indiana to win for the first time this season, holding New York without a field goal for the final 9-plus minutes.

Dahntay Jones had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Roy Hibbert added 15 points and 14 rebounds, and Brandon Rush had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers.

Al Harrington scored 22 points for the Knicks, who shot 2-for-17 in the fourth quarter.

Raptors 110, Pistons 99

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani had 22 points and 12 rebounds for his first double-double of the season, and Chris Bosh scored 25 points as Toronto became the first team this season to score more than 100 points against Detroit.

Ben Gordon had a season-high 30 points, and former Raptors player Charlie Villanueva and Will Bynum each scored 16 for the Pistons.

Lakers 103, Rockets 102, OT

At Houston, Kobe Bryant scored 41 points and Andrew Bynum added 17 points and 17 rebounds as Los Angeles won in overtime for the second straight game, beating Houston.

Carl Landry scored 20 points to lead six players in double figures for Houston. Luis Scola added 16 points and 13 rebounds and Chuck Hayes had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Ron Artest and Trevor Ariza both scored 15 points in their first meeting since they swapped teams in July. Ariza signed with Houston less than a week after Artest left the Rockets to join the Lakers.

Hawks 113, Kings 105

At Sacramento, California, Joe Johnson and Jamal Crawford had 26 points each to help Atlanta beat Sacramento.

Marvin Williams and Mike Bibby each had 13 points for the Hawks (4-1).

Kevin Martin, who was playing with bruised right wrist, had 29 points and 11 rebounds and Jason Thompson added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Kings (1-3).

Hornets 114, Mavericks 107, OT

At New Orleans, Peja Stojakovic hit a game-tying 3-pointer in the final seconds of regulation and Chris Paul scored six of his 39 points in overtime to lift New Orleans over Dallas.

David West scored 25 points and Bobby Brown 18 points for the Hornets, including a 3 and a breakaway dunk in overtime. Emeka Okafor had 11 points and 13 rebounds.

Jason Terry had 35 points and Eric Dampier had 16 points and 14 rebounds for Dallas, which snapped its three-game winning streak.

Warriors 113, Grizzlies 105

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis had 24 points and a season-high 12 assists, Anthony Morrow added 24 points, and Corey Maggette had 20 to lead Golden State to its first win of the season, beating Memphis.

Stephen Jackson added 20 points and rookie Stephen Curry had seven points and nine assists for the Warriors.

Rudy Gay had 29 points and eight rebounds for Memphis while Allen Iverson added 18 points to become the 16th player in NBA history to reach 24,000 for his career.

NBA BRIEFS

Sprained left ankle sidelines Magic's Carter

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando Magic guard Vince Carter was sidelined against the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night with a sprained left ankle. Carter was first injured Friday against the New Jersey Nets. Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said Carter aggravated the ankle again Tuesday night against the Detroit Pistons. Carter's status is day to day. The 32-year-old guard was Orlando's biggest acquisition this summer. The Magic acquired Carter from New Jersey in a trade that sent Courtney Lee, Rafer Alston and Tony Battie to the Nets. Orlando also received Ryan Anderson. Meanwhile, small forward Mickael Pietrus returned to the Magic's lineup Wednesday after missing two straight games with flu-like symptoms.

Nets' Yi has sprained ligament

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New Jersey Nets say an MRI performed on forward Yi Jianlian confirmed that he has sprained a ligament in his right knee. The Nets said Tuesday that Yi will begin rehabilitation immediately and there is no timetable for his return. Yi was injured in Monday night's 79-68 loss at Charlotte. Yi was near the basket when Bobcats forward Gerald Wallace fell and rolled into his leg midway through the third quarter. Yi crumpled to the floor and put no pressure on his right leg as he left. The 22-year-old Yi, who played for China's Olympic team, came to the Nets in a 2008 trade.

Love (hand) feels ahead of schedule

MINNEAPOLIS—Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love says he feels like he is ahead of schedule in rehabilitating his surgically repaired left hand. Love broke his hand in the preseason and had surgery on Oct. 20. Doctors told him to expect a recovery time of six to eight weeks. But Love said on Wednesday that he is hoping to be cleared to return to practice on Nov. 20. That's when doctors will review X-rays to check his progress. Love is scheduled to have stitches removed on Thursday. He is hoping the swelling will start to subside and he will regain mobility in his hand soon. Coach Kurt Rambis said it is too early to set a target date for Love to return to the court.

Disgraced ex-NBA referee Donaghy released from jail

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Disgraced former NBA referee Tim Donaghy was a free man Wednesday after serving most of a 15-month sentence in a gambling scandal.

Pat Berdan, a consultant working with Donaghy, said he was released from Hernando County Jail in Florida, where he had been held since August after officials said he violated travel restrictions while living at a halfway house in the Tampa area.

A New York judge sentenced the ex-referee in July 2008 after Donaghy said he took thousands of dollars from a professional gambler in exchange for inside tips on games—including games he worked.

The 42-year-old pleaded guilty to conspiracy to engage in wire fraud and transmitting betting information through interstate commerce in the tips-for-payoffs scheme.

Donaghy served 13 months of a sentence that began in a federal prison in Pensacola. He was transferred to a halfway house in June and wound up in the Hernando County Jail in Brooksville after being accused of violating his probation by not showing up for work.

During his stay in prison, Donaghy wrote a tell-all book "Blowing The Whistle," that does not yet have a publisher.

Random House said last week that it had decided not to go forward with publication of the book, which in excerpts posted online includes accusations of wagering between officials working games, favoritism toward star players, and desires by the league to extend playoff series.

The NBA has said it will review the allegations that appeared on the Web site deadspin.com.

Executive Prison Consultants, a consulting agency working with Donaghy, has said the former referee plans to live in the Sarasota area and seek a job in sales or marketing.

Despite being 7-0, Saints have concerns

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Drew Brees sounds like a man who's embarrassed, and not because of all the compliments he's getting over the New Orleans Saints' perfect record through seven games.

The Saints' past two victories have been riddled with errors, starting with eight turnovers, six of which were committed by the quarterback with four interceptions and a pair of fumbles.

"You look at it—four turnovers against Miami, four again against Atlanta—and those were good football teams we played and we were able to overcome them because of great defensive play and making some big plays offensively when we had to," Brees said. "But the fact of the matter is: That stuff gets you beat. At some point it catches up to you and we need to fix it. It's sloppy football and it's not what we preach around here. It's not what we teach. It's not how we work. So it's a bad reflection on us and we don't like that."

Apparently, this 7-0 start, which matches the 1991 Saints for the best start in the franchise's 43-year history, hasn't gone to the heads of these Saints.

There's still plenty of time for things to wrong, be it poor play or things that are out of the Saints' control, such as injuries. The 1991 Saints lost five of their last nine games, did not clinch their division until the last game of the season and lost their first playoff game.

AP

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) speaks with New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) after an NFL football game in New Orleans, Monday, Nov. 2, 2009.

Injuries, including starting quarterback Bobby Hebert's shoulder sprain, contributed to that team's slide. And as this season wears on, the Saints' depth is beginning to be tested as well.

Several Saints regulars sat out practice on Wednesday with injuries of varying severity.

Defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis is in his second week of recovering from a right knee sprain, Kendrick Clancy had swelling in his right knee, center Jonathan Goodwin has a contusion in his right knee, linebacker Scott Fujita is in his third week recovering from a left calf strain and receiver Lance Moore has a sprained left ankle. Clancy, Goodwin and Moore all played against Atlanta.

Ellis, a 2008 first-round draft choice who has become one of New Orleans' premier run stuffers, and Fujita, a starting strong-side linebacker, both sat out Monday night's game.

Falcons running back Michael Turner had 151 yards rushing and a touchdown. It was by far the most yards the Saints have allowed to a single running back this season.

The Saints also have given up 68-yard touchdowns in each of the past two weeks. Miami's Ricky Williams did it on a run as Miami jumped out to a 24-3 first-half lead. Atlanta's Roddy White did it on a pass from Matt Ryan in the third quarter.

There were a pair of fumbles, one by Pierre Thomas and one by Mike Bell, that kept Atlanta in the game on Monday night.

"I don't know that we've been playing at a high level the last couple of weeks," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "In the first half at Miami we didn't play at a very high level and there were times (Monday night) where we didn't play at a high level. We turned the ball over four times and we gave up some big plays. The good news is that we were able to come up with the win, but you're not going to be able to do that very often when you have four turnovers offensively. ... I think we can play a lot better than we have the last two weeks."

Payton said he is confident that his players are responding well to criticism and remaining focused on getting better.

Midseason, he said, is not the time to step back and look at what the team has accomplished.

"Because of the work required to game plan and prepare for the next opponent, you don't spend a lot of time reflecting," Payton said. "When we reflect, we're trying to really critique and really remove yourself from the win or the loss. ... When you put the tape on, let's watch what we're seeing and find where we can improve. From this past weekend's game, there are a lot of things that we have to do better. Not just any one thing, but a number of things."

NFL BRIEFS

Goodell, Smith to join NFL labor talks Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith both are slated to participate in the league's latest round of labor negotiations. Speaking after testifying before a House subcommittee Tuesday about a legal case involving two Minnesota Vikings players, Goodell told The Associated Press he would be present for Wednesday's talks in New York about a new collective bargaining agreement. Goodell has not attended all of the sessions the league and union have held so far. The NFL opted out of the collective bargaining agreement last year, although the contract won't expire until after the 2010 season. That season will not have a salary cap under the current CBA, and Smith has said he hopes to have an agreement before then. The old contract was negotiated in 2006 by then-commissioner Paul Tagliabue and then-union head Gene Upshaw, who passed away last year.

Man takes stand to deny shooting Jaguars' Collier

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The man charged with shooting a Jacksonville Jaguars offensive lineman has taken the stand in his own defense and denied being involved in the attack. Tyrone Hartsfield faces attempted murder and weapons charges in the 2008 shooting that left Richard Collier paralyzed. The 32-year-old defendant cried during his testimony Wednesday. He denied following Collier to an apartment near downtown, where Collier was shot while sitting in his car. Hartsfield said he was with his fiancee at a night club the entire evening and they went home after a concert. Collier was shot several times, severing his spinal cord. Doctors also had to amputate the former player's left leg after blood clots formed.

Cable talks with Davis about allegations

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—Coach Tom Cable said Wednesday that he has spoken with Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis about allegations that Cable has a history of violent behavior toward women. "What we talked about is between us and we'll keep it that way," he said. Cable said the conversation came within the past two days and that his job status was not discussed. Cable said he plans to coach the team for the remainder of the season. The Raiders are undergoing a "serious evaluation" of allegations made to ESPN by Cable's first wife, Sandy Cable, and former girlfriend, Marie Lutz, that the coach physically abused them at various times during their relationships. Cable acknowledged striking Sandy Cable with an open hand in a statement on Sunday. Cable said the altercation happened more than 20 years ago and was the only time he's ever touched a woman inappropriately. He stood by that statement Wednesday, declining to answer any questions on the topic.

Rams returner shaking off concussion

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Rams returner Danny Amendola sat out practice due to a concussion while guard Jacob Bell was cleared after tests showed he had only a mild one. Amendola rode a stationary bicycle during Tuesday's workout and coach Steve Spagnuolo said the diminutive receiver was set to undergo tests for concussion-related symptoms on Wednesday. "He still has some symptoms, so they weren't going to take any chances," Spagnuolo said. Bell also had a concussion in the preseason that forced him to miss a few weeks, but Spagnuolo anticipated that the lineman would practice on Wednesday. The 5-11, 186-pound Amendola was leveled by the Lions' Zach Follett early in the fourth quarter Sunday and didn't return to the Rams' 17-10 victory. He didn't remember leaving the field, but said he'd "probably" be on the field for the Rams' final practice Wednesday before players disperse for their off week. Amendola is averaging 24 yards on kickoff returns and 8.5 yards on punt returns, and has 15 receptions for 128 yards. "The hit didn't hurt, but my mind wasn't working," Amendola said. "I walked off, I think. Just got my head buzzed a little bit." "He cleared it within two days so that's a good thing," Spagnuolo said. "Usually if it takes a little bit longer, then you get a concern." Guard Richie Incognito, who missed the Lions game with a foot injury, is scheduled to shed a walking boot on Monday.

2009
Miller Lite
UBA
UNIFIED BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
Venue: Garapan Basketball Court
Entrance Fee: $450.00
Category: 21 years & Over
Opening Date: Monday, December 7th, 2009
Deadline: submit 50% entrance fee and full roster by November 16th, 2009
-12 players per team with maximum of 12 teams
-Top uniforms provided for all teams and coach
-One week free trial at Gold's Gym for all participants
-One free Health Screening at Mariano Chiropractic Clinic for all participants
Champion will receive:
-Trophy
-$1000.00 CASH
-Docomo Pacific Long Distance Phone Cards
-Cases of Drinks from PTC
-Free Entrance to next seasons men's league
Finals & Regular season MVP will receive:
-Trophies
-Docomo Pacific Long Distance Cards
-Cellphones from Docomo Pacific
-After Party at Club V with Free Entrance and drinks from PTC
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Tan Siu Lin Foundation
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Roach bets on Pacquiao victory by KO

BOXING

HOLLYWOOD—The joke among journalists huddled around trainer Freddie Roach Tuesday afternoon at the Wild Card gym was that they were betting on Manny Pacquiao stopping Miguel Cotto either in the first, ninth or 10th round.

Anybody hoping to make a little money on the side knows that Roach has been spot on with his predictions concerning the Filipino champion lately.

And "I put a thousand on the first, ninth and 10th rounds," said Roach.

Pacquiao hunts for Cotto's WBO welterweight belt on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and the cerebral Roach believes his ward will snatch the crown from an opponent pasted to the canvas.

"Cotto gets hit early and once we hit him early, we'll take him down," Roach said.

Pacquiao, who is tapering off as fight night approaches, fought eight more rounds of sparring with Raul Beltran and Urbano Atillano and Roach hopes to have just 10 more rounds—six on Thursday and four on Saturday—of simulated matches before Team Pacquiao heads for Las Vegas.

After the session, Pacquiao went off to his first nationally televised appearance in the United States via the Jimmy Kimmel show where, according to Top Rank in its official website, the reigning pound-for-pound champ even belted out a ballad.

Pacquiao is slated to hold his media workout Wednesday afternoon at the Wild Card gym.

"I'm happy with everything and he's where I want him to be," said Roach, who has been on target with his predictions in Pacquiao's last two fights.

Against Oscar De La Hoya in December 2008, Roach predicted a knockout by Pacquiao in the ninth round. After helplessly staying on the receiving end of a relentless barrage, De La Hoya did not answer the ninth-round bell.

Five months later, Roach predicted a second-round KO victory by his ward over British sensation Ricky Hatton. True enough, Pacquiao ended Hatton's night—and possibly the Briton's career—in the second round with a powerful left which his current foe, Cotto, described as a punch that could have brought down even Mike Tyson.

Roach said the only way Cotto is going to escape the fury of Pacquiao is to fight dirty, but the multiawarded mentor said he is counting on Kenny Bayless to keep things clean on fight night.

Roach said the game plan is to stay off the ropes and to keep the fight in the middle of the ring. The American has also tipped off Pacquiao on a Cotto mannerism that may help in fulfilling his predictions. ***(PDI)***

YANKEES

From Page 44

back. At long last, it did.

"We're looking forward to this parade," Jeter said.

Hey Babe and Yogi, Mr. October and Joltin' Joe—you've got company. Mark Teixeira, CC Sabathia and a new generation of Yankees have procured their place in pinstriped lore.

And for the four amigos, it was ring No. 5.

Jorge Posada, Jeter, Pettitte and Rivera came up together through the minors and were cornerstones for those four titles in five years starting in 1996.

Now, all on the other side of age 35, they have another success to celebrate. And surely they remember the familiar parade route, up Broadway through the Canyon of Heroes.

Indeed, a New York City-sized party is next. Nine years in the making, with all the glitz and glamour this tony town can offer.

"You never know when you're going to get back here," Posada said.

Carrying flags that read 2009 World Series champions, Joba Chamberlain and Nick Swisher led a victory lap around the warning track. Players high-fived fans, then sprayed bubby behind the mound.

For the 79-year-old Steinbrenner, who has been in declining health, it was the seventh championship since he bought the team in 1973.

Though he stayed back home in Tampa, Fla., he certainly wasn't forgotten. The grounds crew wore "Win it for The Boss" shirts last week, which were on sale outside the ballpark Wednesday.

New York wasted its chance to wrap things up in Game 5 at Philadelphia, then set its sights on clinching the World Series at home for the first time since 1999.

While nine years between titles is hardly a drought for most teams, it was almost an eternity in Yankeeland.

New York's eight seasons without a championship was the third-longest stretch for the Yankees since their first one, following gaps of 17 (1979-95) and 14 (1963-76).

Reggie Jackson's three homers in Game 6 against the Los Angeles Dodgers made the Yankees champs in '77. On this November night, Matsui delivered a sublime performance at the plate that must have made Mr. October proud.

"It's awesome," Matsui said through a translator. "Unbelievable. I'm surprised myself."

Playing perhaps his final game with the Yankees, Matsui hit a two-run homer off Martinez in the second inning and a two-run single on an 0-2 pitch in the third.

A slumping Teixeira added an RBI single in the fifth off reliever Chad Durbin, and Matsui cracked a two-run double off the right-center fence against lefty J.A. Happ.

A designated hitter with balky knees, Matsui came off the bench in all three games at Philadelphia. Still, he had a huge Series, going 8 for 13 (.615) with three homers and eight RBIs. His go-ahead shot off an effective Martinez in Game 2 helped the Yankees tie it 1-all.

Bobby Richardson was the only other player with six RBIs in a World Series game, doing it for the Yankees in Game 3 against Pittsburgh in 1960. Richardson had a first-inning grand slam and a two-run single in the fourth.

Matsui's big hits built a comfortable cushion for a feisty Pettitte, who shouted at plate umpire Joe West while coming off the field in the fourth. Still, Pettitte extended major league records with his 18th postseason win and sixth to end a series.

The 37-year-old left-hander, pitching on three days' rest, became the first pitcher to start and win the clincher in all three postseason rounds. He beat Minnesota and the Los Angeles Angels in the AL playoffs.

Pettitte lasted 5 2-3 innings, allowing three runs, four hits and five walks. Chamberlain and Damaso Marte combined for 1 2-3 innings of scoreless relief before Rivera secured the final five outs.

It had been nearly a half-century since players had won five titles with one team. The last to do it? Of course a bunch of Yankees: Yogi Berra (10 titles), Mickey Mantle (seven) and Whitey Ford (six) in 1962, according to STATS LLC.

For Joe Girardi, a three-time Yankees champion as a player, it was the fulfillment of a mission. When he succeeded Joe Torre in October 2007, Girardi chose uniform No. 27, putting his quest on his back for all to see. His tenure didn't start out so well, with New York missing the playoffs in its final season at old Yankee Stadium following 13 consecutive appearances.

Steinbrenner's well-paid players hadn't soaked themselves in bubbly after the season since Bernie Williams gloved Mike Piazza's midnight flyout at Shea Stadium to win the 2000 Subway Series and cap the Yankees' third straight championship and fourth in five years.

Two outs from winning in 2001, the Yankees stumbled in the desert. New York then spent more than $1.6 billion after that trying to regain glory, falling short with infamous flops such as Kevin Brown, Javier Vazquez and Carl Pavano.

But last offseason the Yankees got smart, adding a trio of top free agents—Teixeira, Sabathia and A.J. Burnett—for $423.5 million. They jelled with Rodriguez, the game's highest-paid player but a winner for the first time in 16 major league seasons.

MATSUI

From Page 44

Matsui drew a standing ovation when he came to bat in the seventh, and chants of "MVP! MVP!" bounced around the ballpark.

"He hit everything we threw up there," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said.

Watching Game 6 on TV in Tokyo, Masanori Murakami echoed that sentiment. He was the first Japanese player in the majors, in 1964 with San Francisco, and fully appreciated the magnitude of Matsui's honor.

"Ichiro Suzuki has had many accomplishments, but they've all been in the regular season. As the first Japanese to win an MVP in the World Series, this is a great accomplishment for Matsui and will have a huge impact," Murakami said.

"New York is a tough place to play, so this is a great achievement for him given all he has been through with injuries and missing time," he said.

An outfielder by trade, Matsui hasn't played the field since June 15, 2008, because of bad knees. He hit .274 this year with 28 homers and 90 RBIs, and wasn't much of a force in the AL playoffs against Minnesota and the Los Angeles Angels.

That changed against the defending champion Phillies.

Now strictly a DH and pinch-hitter because of bad knees, Matsui accomplished a lot in a hurry. His 13 at-bats tied Baltimore's Rick Dempsey in 1983 for the fewest by a Series MVP (nonpitchers only, naturally), according to STATS.

Matsui became the first player to win the award as a full-time DH in the Series. Toronto DH Paul Molitor played in the field when the Blue Jays won the 1993 title.

"Oh my goodness. You can't say enough about Matsui all year," Yankees star Mark Teixeira said. "The biggest game of the year, unbelievable. I haven't seen a guy hit like that in the World Series."

Matsui became the 11th Yankees player to win the award, joining teammates Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera, along with the likes of Reggie Jackson and Whitey Ford.

At 35, Matsui's greatest achievement might've come in his last game in pinstripes.

Matsui hit a grand slam in his first game at old Yankee Stadium in 2003, and this year wrapped up his $52 million, four-year contract.

It remains to be seen what the aging Yankees will do with Matsui. Whatever happens, he certainly left his mark.

"I hope so. I hope it works out that way," he said. "I love New York, I love the Yankees."

PHILLIES

From Page 44

saves vs. the Rays and Howard had three homers and six RBIs.

They won't have fond memories of this one.

The Phillies gave Hamels a 3-0 lead in the pivotal Game 3. But after tossing three scoreless innings, the temperamental lefty fell apart. He allowed five runs over 4 1-3 innings in an 8-5 loss that gave New York a 2-1 lead.

Lidge, who led the majors with 11 blown saves in the regular season, made one appearance against the Yankees. He entered with the score tied in the ninth inning in Game 4. After retiring the first two batters, Lidge gave up three runs in a 7-4 loss.

Howard, the MVP of the NL championship series against Los Angeles, set a record with 13 strikeouts in a World Series. Willie Wilson fanned 12 times for Kansas City against Philadelphia in 1980.

Howard hit a two-run homer Wednesday night. But the All-Star first baseman finished with a .174 batting average (4 for 23), one homer and three RBIs.

"You don't look at it as a failure. We had a great season. We just got beat by the better team," Howard said.

The defending champs cruised to their third straight NL East title with 93 wins and breezed through the first two rounds of the playoffs, beating Colorado in four games in the division series and the Dodgers in five in the NLCS.

Still, the Phillies were 2 to 1 underdogs against the Yankees, who had 103 regular-season victories. The Vegas oddsmakers had it right all the way. No one was going to deny the best team that money can buy—New York's payroll was $201 million on opening day—its 27th title.

Howard, Hamels and Lidge weren't the only problems for the Phillies. A potent offense that led the league in runs went into a collective slump at the worst time. Jimmy Rollins (.217), Shane Victorino (.182), Pedro Feliz (.174) and Ben Francisco (.000) couldn't produce at the plate.

"We battled, but you have to tip your hat to them," Victorino said. "They had a great team."

Lee was masterful on the mound in Game 1 and helped the Phillies avoid elimination with a strong outing Monday night. Pedro Martinez was superb in a 3-1 loss in Game 2, but the wily 38-year-old right-hander failed to match that effort his second time out Wednesday night. The rest of the pitching staff was shaky.

Defensively, a mistake by Victorino proved costly in the final game. The Gold Glove center fielder misplayed Derek Jeter's line drive into a single with one out in the bottom of the third. Hideki Matsui then ripped a two-out, two-run single to give the Yankees a 4-1 lead.

Manuel made some questionable decisions, too. He could have brought in left-hander J.A. Happ to face Matsui with the bases loaded in the third but stuck with Martinez. Matsui had homered in his two previous at-bats off Martinez, and he delivered another key hit, his ninth in 19 postseason at-bats off Martinez.

"Pedro knows how to pitch. He's got experience. I had to let him face that guy," Manuel said. "It wasn't time for me to take him out."

The Phillies were trying to become the first repeat champion from the NL since the Cincinnati Reds did it in 1976. The Yankees were the last team to capture consecutive titles when they won three in a row from 1998-2000.

"We will be back," Manuel said. "We're going to be a better team next year."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	2	2	.500	3
Toronto	2	2	.500	3
New York	1	4	.200	4 1/2
New Jersey	0	5	.000	5 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	4	1	.800	—
Miami	4	1	.800	—
Orlando	4	1	.800	—
Charlotte	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Washington	2	3	.400	2

Central Division

Cleveland	3	2	.600	—
Chicago	2	2	.500	1/2
Detroit	2	3	.400	1
Milwaukee	1	2	.333	1
Indiana	1	3	.250	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	2	1	.667	—
Dallas	3	2	.600	—
Houston	3	2	.600	—
New Orleans	2	3	.400	1
Memphis	1	4	.200	2

Northwest Division

Denver	5	0	1.000	—
Oklahoma City	2	2	.500	2 1/2
Portland	2	3	.400	3
Utah	1	3	.250	3 1/2
Minnesota	1	4	.200	4

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	4	1	.800	—
Phoenix	4	1	.800	—
Golden State	1	2	.333	2
L.A. Clippers	1	4	.200	3
Sacramento	1	4	.200	3

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 122, Phoenix 100
Miami 93, Washington 89
Toronto 110, Detroit 99
Denver 122, New Jersey 94
Indiana 101, New York 89
Boston 92, Minnesota 90
L.A. Lakers 103, Houston 102, OT
New Orleans 114, Dallas 107, OT
Atlanta 113, Sacramento 105
Golden State 113, Memphis 105

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eagles vs Knights in volleyball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel School will dispute the junior high school title of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League, following their separate semifinal wins yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The MCS Knights swept Marianas Baptist Academy, 25-18, 25-23, in the first semis match, while the GCA Eagles survived a thrilling three-set game against Whispering Palms, 10-25, 25-23, 15-7.

It was sweet revenge for GCA, which lost to Whispering Palms in last year's finals, 23-25, 25-12, 14-16.

Towering Daniel Camacho helped the Eagles avenge their defeat to the Terns, hitting several kills in the closing phase of the second set and in the deciding third set.

His dig from the left corner of the net allowed GCA to tie the game at 23-all. Earlier the trio of Christian Miller, Clay McCullough-Sterns, and Jake Lee made wonders for Whisperings Palms, which moved two points away from defending their title, 23-20, before Camacho and company made a comeback.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The GCA Eagles' Daniel Camacho soars for one of the several kills he made during their semifinals game against Whispering Palms in the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Miller attempted another kill to break the deadlock, but Genesis Manglona was there to block him and gave GCA a 24-23 lead.

Whispering Palms sued for time to stop the Eagles' momentum, but failed, as GCA scored another point to win the second set and send the match into an extra set. GCA served, McCullough-Stearns received it and hit a volley with the ball heading to the backline. A surprised Rey Kadmiel saw the ball coming and quickly tossed it back to Whispering Palms' court, anticipating it would go wide because he was not yet squared off for the return. However, the ball dropped to the unmanned left corner a few inches away from the net and Lee tried to chase the ball and hit it with his left feet, but faltered.

The third set started with Whispering Palms committing a service error and that seemed to be a bad sign, as the Terns went on to commit a few more miscues. Camacho then continued to assert his might in the net, capitalizing on his advantage in ceiling against Whispering Palms' defenders. At one point in the third set, Camacho scored four straight points off spikes. He, however, had a couple of mistakes too, returning the ball with his back turned and committing side outs. Camacho's last side out cut GCA's lead to six, 7-13.

In the next play, it was Whispering Palms' turn to make a blunder when McCullough-Stearns struggled to hit the ball down low and was blocked by the net.

McCullough-Stearns' error moved GCA a point away from advancing to the finals and shortly the Eagles did so when Whispering Palms failed to return Camacho's service after only two touches. Camacho's strong serve headed to the backline, a Whispering Palms received it, and another Terns player hit it, but the ball went wide to the left sideline, dropping in front of a jubilant Eagles bench.

The Eagles-Knights title duel will be played today at 4:30pm after the consolation match between dethroned champion Whispering Palms and MBA at 3:30pm.

Heo bows out of Asia/Oceania tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo's debut in the doubles event of the 2009 Asian/Oceania Closed Championships in South Korea went the distance before he and teammate Rishabdev Raman lost to the host's bets.

Heo and Raman bounced back from a 0-4 deficit in the opening set of their first round match against Korea's Sang Yob Kim and Sung Jun Park to eke out a 7-5 victory on Wednesday at the Seogwipo Tennis Courts in Donghe-ung-dong, Seogwipo, Jeju-do.

In the second set, it was the Korean tandem's turn to recover via a 6-3 triumph to force a deciding third set.

CNMI mentor Jeff Race, who is also in Korea to coach Heo and two other female players of the Pacific Oceania Team, said the third set was a seesaw battle and unfortunately, Heo and Raman were on the losing end.

"They lost in a super tiebreaker, 10-7," Race said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo is done for the tournament, as he also lost his opening-round match in the boys singles against Korea's top junior netter and world-ranked No. 94 Suk-Young Jeong, 0-6, 1-6.

Samoa's Steffi Carruthers and Papua New Guinea's Abigail Tere-Apisah also played in a three-set opening round in the girls doubles and had the breaks on their side.

The two Pacific Oceania netters dropped the opening set of their match against Thailand's Kobkanok Upapong and China's Zi Yang, 2-6, but stayed alive with a 6-3 triumph in the second set.

Carruthers and Tere-Apisah then lived for another day after a hard-earned 10-5 tiebreaker victory. The Pacific Oceania girls' doubles team will face Korea's Jang Su Jeong and Lee So-Ra in the second round today.

Today's second round doubles match will give Carruthers an opportunity to avenge her loss to Lee, who defeated the Samoan bet in the first round of the girls singles on Tuesday, 6-4, 6-2.

The tournament in Korea will run until Nov. 8 and also features players from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, Chinese-Taipei, China, Thailand, India, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

The five-day netfest is a B1 event, which awards the most ranking points among the regional championships in the Junior ITF Circuit calendar. The winner in the singles division of the B1 tournament will get 180 points, 120 for finalists, 80 for semifinalists, 60 for quarterfinalists, 30 for losers in the Round of 16, and 20 for the losers in the Round of 32. Lesser points are awarded in doubles event.

Naked Fish Boyz back on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Naked Fish Boyz regained the lead in the A division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League after last week's games at the various bars and watering holes here.

Naked Fish Boyz improved to a 102-89 record, dislodging Jonny's Black Stallions Jr. Kunehoz (99-69) from the No. 1 spot in the eight-team A division. Jonny's Load Up remained in third place with its 90-80 record, followed by Bud's FU-JIN (89-81), D' Pirates 101 Proofers (86-84), Bud's Brothers A (79-91), Bud's Enforcer (78-75), and Bud's No Name (40-113).

In the masters division, D' Pirates M-Destroyers kept the top spot and widened their gap against the second-running Oleai Snipers. D' Pirates M-Destroyers hold a 109-61 mark against Oleai Snipers' 94-76.

Other teams entered in the Masters division and their standings in parentheses are Jonny's Black Stallions (93-90), VFW Angry Dragons (90-80), Bud's Brothers M (58-95), and Oleai D' Companeros (49-121).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A member of the Oleai D' Companeros aims at his target, while his teammates and players of Bud's Brother-M looks on during their game in the Masters division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League last week at the Oleai Bar & Grill.

D' Pirates-sponsored teams are also doing well in the Tuesday B division with D' Pirates CK-Destroyers ahead with their 99-51 record, and D' Pirates B Destroyers in second place with an 89-61 mark. In third place is VFW Naughty Boyz (84-66), followed by Bud's Bring it on 1 (62-88), Jonny's Samurai (61-89), and Bud's Bar Pure Budz (55-95).

Another set of sister teams occupy the Top 2 spots in the Thursday B division with Buds Brothers B having a 114-51 slate and Buds Bring it on 11 holding a 94-71 mark.

Other teams playing in the Thursday B division are Remington Naughty Boyz (92-73), USSP No Fear (92-73), Naked Man F.O.T.T.E (87-78), Bud's B-Bwiibwis (86-79), The Flair Salut Balut (81-84), VFW Dutty Gunz (73-92), The Flair Get Sum (53-112), and Snicker N' Tuna Lights Out (53-112).

In the C Kingfisher division, Jonny's Wasabe retained the lead with its 106-44 record, 10 victories ahead of second placer Bar Gaia Gaiana. Bar Gaia Gaiana moved up from third to second with its 96-54, while USSP Young Gunz dropped to the No. 3 spot with its 90-60 mark. VFW One Shot remained in fourth place with its 80-70 slate, followed by Jonny's ADH (78-72), and BYE (0-150).

Bud's Bwiibwis C (93-57) still leads in the C Chichirika division, while Snicker's Lucky Shot and Bud's C – Bwiibwis Barracuda are tied for second with identical 85-65 slates. Bud's Darty Deeds hold a 74-76 record for third place, followed by D' Pirates Sang (69-81), and USSP Bomsoro (44-106).

VFW Yakau strengthened its hold to the top spot in the Ladies division after improving to a 73-47 slate. Tijuana B-52 Shooters are in second place for the second straight week after carding a 60-45 mark. Others entered in the Ladies division are Jonny's.Com (59-61), Snicker's Mama Snipers (49-56), and Bud's Bwiibwis Mermaids (44-76).

For the record

No better way for a boy to spend Citizenship Day than playing baseball like those did Wednesday at Palacios Field. Ah, the first ping of the bat and pop in the mitt of a new season.

Just as one season ends, another starts. Major League Baseball crowns its champions at the same time Saipan Little Leaguers commence practice with dreams of making the all-stars and going to their own world series.

If the past is any indication, then some of our boys will go to the big show next summer in the States but not all. Only a select few. It will have to be earned and the earning starts now.

Saipan Little League began in 1973. From then to 2000, the Northern Marianas played in the Far East region. To go the World Series, we needed to conquer Japan, Taiwan, and Korea.

For the record the Far East has won 22 championships, far more than any other region: Taiwan 15, Japan 5, Korea 2.

The first Saipan team to go to Williamsport was in 1993. The CNMI placed fourth in the tournament but represented Asia-Pacific after Taiwan, Japan, and Korea were disqualified on a technicality. We finished 1-2, losing to Latin America and Europe then beating Canada 4-3.

Now our road to Williamsport is blocked by Taiwan, the Mt. Everest of Little League. The CNMI caught a break when Asia-Pacific was split into two tournaments from 2001-2007. The Saipan boys in 2006 won the Pacific Region but went 0-3 in the World Series, dropping a couple of heartbreakers. ESPN's announcer trying to pronounce Rogolifoi was priceless. I wish I had saved that.

Guam won the Pacific in 2005 and was one of the most successful Pacific teams in a Little League history after sweeping pool play 3-0 before losing in the international semifinals, along with the 2001 Guam team that did the same thing.

CNMI wore the Pacific uniforms in 2004 but went 0-3 in the Series. Guam fared no better representing the Pacific in 2003. The year before, Guam reached the international semifinals at 2-1 but then got crushed by Taiwan.

But a change of the rules in 2007 puts the CNMI and Guam at the bottom of a steep hill. Japan, by virtue of its 300 leagues, got to have their own tournament ticket while the rest of Asia battled the Pacific for one representative.

For the record, the CNMI has never defeated Chinese Taipei. Our 11- and 12-year-olds do own a tournament win against Japan and Korea. While Taiwan has dominated our region, in 2008 they lost to Korea and Hong Kong. Guam won the tournament and finished 1-2 in Williamsport.

Our best bet to go to a World Series comes in the Junior/Senior/Big tournaments. At the age of 13, players in Taiwan, Korea, and Japan play interscholastic baseball instead of leagues organized under the auspices of the Little League program headquartered in Williamsport.

Earlier this year our Junior Leaguers traveled to Taylor, Michigan where they compiled a respectable 2-2 record. The Philippines won the right to go to Bangor, Maine as Pacific champions of the Senior League, while Guam took the trip to Easley, South Carolina for the Big League World Series.

Last year, the CNMI Big League All-Stars went to their Series. In 2007, our Senior and Big leagues made it. I consider coaching the CNMI team in the 2002 Junior League World Series one of my favorite all-time sports memories.

Our boys certainly have a chance to take a trip to the United States. But it won't be free, nor will it be easy. They will have to earn it in Jakarta next June.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Eagles vs Knights in volleyball finals

Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel School will dispute the junior high school title of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League, following their separate semifinal wins yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. 43

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade scores 40 to lead Heat past Wizards

Dwyane Wade scored 40 points, including a go-ahead jumper with 25 seconds left, to lead the Miami Heat in a 93-89 victory over the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night. 40

Yankees win 27th World Series

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Paint the town in pinstripes! Nearly a decade after their dynasty ended on a blooper in the desert, the New York Yankees are baseball's best again.

Hideki Matsui tied a World Series record with six RBIs, Andy Pettitte won on short rest and New York beat the Philadelphia Phillies 7-3 in Game 6 on Wednesday night, finally seizing that elusive 27th title—the most in all of sports.

It was the team's first since winning three straight from 1998-2000.

Matsui, the Series MVP, powered a quick rout of old foe Pedro Martinez. And when Mariano Rivera got the final out, it was ecstasy in the Bronx for George Steinbrenner's go-for-broke bunch.

What a way for Alex Rodriguez, Derek Jeter and crew to christen their $1.5-billion ballpark: One season, one championship.

And to think it capped a season that started in turmoil—a steroids scandal involving A-Rod, followed by hip surgery that kept him out until May.

"My teammates, coaches and the organization stood by me and now we stand here as world champions," Rodriguez said. "We're going to enjoy it, and we're going to party!"

During postgame ceremonies on the field, the big video board in center flashed: "Boss, this is for you." And commissioner Bud Selig dedicated the moment to Steinbrenner.

About 100 miles south, disappointment.

For Chase Utley and the Phillies, it was a frustrating end to another scintillating season. Philadelphia fell two wins short of becoming the first NL team to repeat as World Series champions since the 1975-76 Cincinnati Reds.

Ryan Howard's sixth-inning homer came too late to wipe away his World Series slump, and Phillies pitchers rarely managed to slow Matsui and the Yankees' machine.

"It's important in our next couple years to stay afloat," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said. "I know we can do better."

In a fitting coincidence, this championship came eight years to the day after the Yankees lost Game 7 of the 2001 World Series in Arizona on Luis Gonzalez's broken-bat single off Rivera.

New York spent billions trying to get

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AP
The New York Yankees celebrate after Game 6 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, in New York.

Matsui becomes 1st Japanese-born World Series MVP

By BEN WALKER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Hideki Matsui has the most curious habit at the plate. He never takes a practice swing once he steps into the batter's box.

He saves all those meaty cuts for when he needs them.

Matsui did all sorts of damage Wednesday night, setting a record with six RBIs in a World Series clincher and leading the New York Yankees over the Philadelphia Phillies 7-3 Wednesday night.

His performance won Game 6—and clinched the MVP trophy.

AP
New York Yankees' Hideki Matsui holds up the MVP trophy after Game 6 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, in New York.

Matsui became the first Japanese-born player to win the award that started in 1955. He homered, doubled and singled, highlighting a Series in which he hit .615 with three home runs and eight RBIs.

"It's awesome," Matsui said through a translator. "Unbelievable. I'm surprised myself."

Standing on a podium in shallow center field, Matsui waved his new championship hat and shook hands with commissioner Bud Selig. Matsui won three titles in Japan and was eager to celebrate his first in the Bronx.

"It's certainly different. All I can say right now is I feel great," he said.

Matsui's two-run drive off Pedro Martinez in the second inning put the Yankees ahead for good. Nicknamed "Godzilla" back home, Matsui sent a shot to right field that banged off an advertisement on the facing of the second deck—fittingly, it was a sign for the Japanese company Komatsu, which makes mining and construction equipment.

Matsui added a two-run single in the third and lined a two-run double off the right-center field wall in the fifth. The giant videoboard in center field showed fans holding Japanese signs and while the sellout crowd roared, he stood placidly at second base.

Fans cheered when Matsui's feat, matching Bobby Richardson's 1960 mark for RBIs in any Series game, was posted on the scoreboard. No one, however, had ever delivered such a bounty in the game that wrapped up a championship.

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Phillies' bid for repeat falls short against Yanks

By ROB MAADDI
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan Howard kept striking out. Cole Hamels had a meltdown on the mound. Brad Lidge imploded in a crucial spot.

With their slugger, former ace and closer struggling on the big stage, the Philadelphia Phillies had no chance to repeat. Their bid to become the first NL team in 33 years to win consecutive World Series titles fell two wins short against the New York Yankees with a 7-3 loss in Game 6 Wednesday night.

"Our goal is to come back and play again, and hopefully we play the Yankees again," manager Charlie Manuel said.

Chase Utley tied Reggie Jackson's record for homers in a Series with five, and Cliff Lee earned two wins.

But the Phillies couldn't overcome poor performances by three players who played crucial roles in helping them win the franchise's second championship in 2008. Hamels was MVP of the World Series last year against Tampa Bay. Lidge got two

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AP
Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard reacts after striking out during the eighth inning of Game 6 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the New York Yankees Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, in New York.